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2,000 activists detained in Rabat

RABAT (AP) — Police detained about 2,000 Islamic fundamentalists who staged a peaceful demonstration outside a court house in the center of Rabat Tuesday. A Western reporter on the scene saw fundamentalists taken into a courtyard where they were beaten by para-military police armed with batons and tear gas. The demonstrators were taken to a detention center where they were held in the night. The demonstrators were taken to a detention center where they were held in the night. The demonstrators were taken to a detention center where they were held in the night.

Princess Basma back from Indonesia

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, president of Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund, returned to Amman Tuesday at the end of an official visit to Indonesia. During the visit, the Princess visited several social institutions and obtained first-hand information on Indonesian women's experience and their contribution to the national development.

S. Arabia: Iranian pilgrims welcome

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia said Tuesday it would welcome pilgrims to next month's annual pilgrimage to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina and remained willing to negotiate over the issue. "We followed with great interest the announcement by (senior Iranian cleric) Ayatollah Khomeini regarding the indirect negotiations on raising the number of Iranian pilgrims had failed," the Saudi Press Agency quoted Pilgrimage Affairs and Endowments Minister Sheikh Abdul Wahab Abdul Wase as saying. "Saudi Arabia welcomes Iranians to perform this year's annual pilgrimage according to the Islamic law and under its limited quota," Sheikh Abdul Wahab added.

Missing lawyer surfaces in France

PARIS (R) — A French lawyer reported missing in Beirut by Lebanese police is safe in Marseille. Lawyer Marcel Paul Coccadi, 43, told Reuters he had left Beirut last week several days ahead of schedule. Police in Beirut said Monday they were searching for Coccadi after he disappeared from his hotel there April 30. Coccadi said reports of his disappearance were probably due to the fact that because of his early return to France he missed an appointment with a senior officer of the Lebanese police who was a personal friend.

Sudan pensions off senior officers

CAIRO (R) — Sudan's military junta has pensioned off 13 generals and brigadiers in a move said by the government's spokesman to be unrelated to last month's failed coup attempt. Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported from Khartoum Monday night that the officers included paratrooper commander Major-General Salah Al Dawy and the head of the military academy, Admiral Al Tigrani Ali Saleh. The chairman of the armed forces daily newspaper, Major-General Mohammed Osman Malek, was also among those pensioned off, MENA said.

UNRWA welcomes extra U.S. aid

VIENNA (Agencies) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees has expressed its appreciation for an additional \$7 million contribution to UNRWA announced by the United States government on Friday. The contribution, authorized by President Bush from a special refugee emergency fund, brings to \$37 million the total U.S. contribution to UNRWA for 1990. It will go towards UNRWA's regular budget, which finance education, health, relief and social services for more than two million Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Kohl wants military status agreed

BONN (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl rejected Tuesday a Soviet suggestion that Germany could be united before the tricky problem of its military alliance was cleared up. Kohl said Bonn wanted the external aspects of unification — such as a united Germany's membership of NATO — settled by the autumn in talks between East and West Germany and the four wartime victors. "The suggestion of de-coupling (external and internal aspects of unification) corresponds in no way to my ideas. It would be fatal," he said. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Saturday solutions to unity problems could be delayed for a few years.

Firing at royal yacht is most serious, ominous and inexplicable, palace says

Aqaba incident holds potential of dangerous confrontation - Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Palace spokesman Tuesday confirmed reports that an Israeli naval boat in the Gulf of Aqaba fired into the pathway of His Majesty King Hussein's yacht late last month while the King was standing on deck. "This is not the first incident to occur in the gulf involving the royal yacht, although it is the first to include firing in its immediate vicinity," the spokesman said in a statement carried by the Associated Press. The spokesman said that the incident took place on April 27 and not as previously reported on April 28. He said Jordan complained to Western countries over the incident and warned that "diplomatic action was taken to draw attention to its extreme seriousness, for it held all potential of developing into a most serious confrontation with untold results."

Iraq possesses 'nuclear triggers,' president says

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — President Saddam Hussein said Tuesday Iraq had acquired a sample of a nuclear electronic device Washington had said could be used as a trigger for nuclear weapons and was now making its own. "The United States and Britain said in March that officials at London's Heathrow airport had seized a shipment of the top-secret U.S. capacitors bound for Iraq," he said. "Only five days after the U.S. announcement about the so-called nuclear triggers, our fighters at the (Ministry of Industry and) Military Industrialization succeeded in producing similar capacitors to those so-called triggers," President Hussein told Iraqi political leaders. "Only five days after the Americans said they (seized them) our young men in the military industry managed to produce two condensers," he told.

Campaign continues to fight ban on male hairstylists despite official denials

Sana Atiyeh and Nuzween Murad
Jordan Times reporters
AMMAN — The banning of male hairstylists from working with female clients continued to draw angry reactions from the association of owners of beauty parlours and other quarters despite Ministry of Interior denials that such a ban was adopted in the first place. A copy of the decision, banning the issuance of licenses and employment to male hairstylists as of 21 April 1990 was made available to the Jordan Times yesterday. "The management and employees of female beauty salons to be licensed as of this date will be limited to women," the decision, signed by Minister of Interior Salem Al-Masadeh, stipulated. Although ministry sources refused all reports of the ban, the Jordan Times confirmed Tuesday that the decision was sent to the head of the Public Security Department (PSD) in the form of an addendum to an earlier condition set by the ministry governing the ownership, employment and status of premises occupied by hairstylists. "We have only issued instructions governing the work of the beauty parlours and they do not infringe on any person's right to work in this field," a senior Interior Ministry official told the Jordan Times Tuesday. The president of the hairstylists' association, Anis Naber, vowed to fight the ministry decision "by contacting all the concerned parties before taking it to law courts if it continues to infringe on the rights of professionals in this field."

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Crown Prince renews warning

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has called on the international community, notably the big powers, as well as the parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict to renew efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East. The Crown Prince also warned that Israeli expansionism will only fuel the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. "It is clear that the present climate in international relations is conducive to the convening of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations," the Crown Prince wrote in an article which appeared in the May 6 issue of the Los Angeles Times. "This conference would be an appropriate forum in which to deal with the problem once other methods have been exhausted."

Baltic republics push collision with Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union's three Baltic republics moved further along a collision course with Moscow Tuesday by maintaining their independence drive in the face of Kremlin pressure. In Lithuania, trailblazer of the thrust to independence in the Baltics, a senior Soviet officer said the army might have to intervene if tension escalated. Lieutenant-Colonel Valery Shorupov, deputy commander of the Soviet army garrison in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius, urged President Mikhail Gorbachev to use his new executive powers and run the republic from the Kremlin. "Soldiers do not want to interfere in the life of the republic. But an escalation of events could force the army to be pulled into the whirlpool," Shorupov told a Vilnius news conference. The rebel Lithuanian govern-

Prince Abdullah ends visit; Badran, Klibi hold talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi Tuesday discussed efforts under way to convene an extraordinary Arab summit and the outcome of the discussions held here by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz, who left for Cairo earlier Monday. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, quoted Badran as reaffirming to Klibi Jordan's support for the proposed conference, "which would help the Arabs reach consensus on means to confront the common dangers." The prime minister briefed the Arab League chief on Jordan's efforts, in cooperation with Saudi Arabia, to convene the summit, Petra said. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem attended the meeting.

Klibi arrived here from Damascus, where he held talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, who was quoted as saying that Syria would not attend a summit if it was held in Baghdad and calling for an alternative venue. In comments to reporters after seeing off Prince Abdullah to Cairo, Badran said the proposed summit would go ahead later this month. "We believe we have to skip the routine procedures and pave the way for Arab leaders to sit together and reach positive results which would be for the benefit of the Arab Nation," he said. "Iraq is a good Arab country with a clear national inclination and has always played an active role in serving Arab causes," he said. He said: "We discussed with Prince Abdullah the preparations for convening a special Arab summit in Baghdad later this month to discuss all the challenges facing the Arab Nation."

Saudi crown prince in Cairo in push to clear way for summit

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt and Saudi Arabia have embarked on delicate diplomacy to clear the way to hold an Arab summit in Baghdad in the face of Syrian opposition. Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah arrived in Cairo Tuesday to join President Hosni Mubarak a few hours after Syrian President Hafez Al Assad refused to attend a summit in Baghdad and suggested a neutral venue be fixed at a preliminary meeting of foreign ministers. Just before Prince Abdullah arrived, Egypt sent a private message to Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The PLO's summit proposal is in question mainly because it specified the meeting should be in Baghdad. Prince Abdullah flew to Cairo from Amman. His tour also has taken him to Damascus and Baghdad. He conferred with Syrian and Iraqi leaders on healing the 11-year rift between them. Because of it, the choice of Baghdad for the summit emerged as the main hurdle to convening it as the PLO requested prior to a U.S.-Soviet summit opening May 30 in Washington. Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, who met President Mubarak in Cairo, told reporters there is no talk of a change of venue. Saudi Arabia's position remains uncertain. Both Iraq and Jordan have said Riyadh will participate. But the Saudis were less than positive in a statement that stressed the importance of consultation and said Saudi Arabia "does not adopt unilateral decisions" on Arab issues. Egypt has not stated its position publicly. But Mubarak has said he favors any summit that is adequately prepared. He visited Damascus last week, where he told Assad and Egyptian editors who accompanied him that he would attend if a summit and its venue are decided by consensus. Syria announced Monday it will not attend an emergency summit in Baghdad, hindering intensive efforts to patch up the 11-year-old feud with Iraq that has blocked Arab unity. Officials said Damascus proposed that foreign ministers of the 22 Arab League members meet in Tunis to find an alternative venue for the summit.

Beirut carnage continues

BEIRUT (R) — "The city is burning"; the cry of a resident rose above the thunder of exploding shells and rockets Tuesday as rival forces fought with tank, artillery and rockets for control of Lebanon's Christian heartland. More than 10 people were killed and 20 wounded, including five children. Among the dead was army Colonel Francois Zein, head of the Lebanese military academy of General Michel Aoun, whose 15,000 mainly Christian troops are locked in battle with militia-men of the Lebanese Forces (LF) for a 14th week. "Shells are raining down non-stop on nearly every quarter of east Beirut. The city is lighting up from the glow of the exploding shells... it is burning," cried resident Soughit Helou. (Continued on page 3)

Qadhafi 'planned to bomb Crete bases'

ATHENS (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi was planning to launch a missile attack against an American base on the island of Crete after a U.S. air raid on Libya in 1984, a statement by the Libyan embassy in Athens said Tuesday. The statement quoted Qadhafi's address via satellite from Tripoli to a private conference on peace in the Mediterranean sponsored by a Greek organization in Crete Saturday. "An American military base on the island of Crete was subject to missile bombing by Libya in 1986 when America thought of using it for aggression against our country," Qadhafi said. He said he had warned the Socialist government then ruling Greece of his intentions and asked authorities to evacuate the island "as it was likely to be turned into a battlefield between Libya and the United States of America." The embassy statement included no explanation by Qadhafi of why the attack was not carried out. Qadhafi threatened to retaliate against any island in the Mediterranean, of any country in Europe for the sake of its own security," he said.

Musawi fears hostage may be killed if Iranians are dead

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A senior Shi'ite Muslim fundamentalist voiced fears Tuesday that one of the Western hostages in Lebanon could be killed by his kidnappers if four missing Iranians are found to have been slain by Christian militiamen.

"If the death of the four Iranians is ascertained, that will definitely affect the hostage issue. One of the kidnappers might react by murdering a hostage," said Hussein Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal faction based in the Bekaa Valley of East Lebanon.

"I don't have any concrete information on that. But they've done it before. What's there to stop them from doing it again?" he told the Associated Press in a telephone interview from his headquarters in the ancient town of Baalbek.

His remarks were seen as an effort to pressure Washington to make a conciliatory gesture toward Iran and the kidnappers following last month's release of two Americans.

The four Iranians were seized by right-wing Lebanese Forces militiamen north of Beirut in July 1982.

Iran has repeatedly called for their release. But the four men are widely believed to have been killed either in civil war shelling or by their captors.

They are Ahmad Motevasseleian, commander of the contingent of Iranian Revolutionary Guards based in the Bekaa Valley of East Lebanon, Charge d'Affaires Mohsen Musawi, Kazem Akhavan Alaf, a photographer for Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, and their Iranian driver, Mohammad Taghi Rastegar Rastegar Moqadam.

Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Geagea said in August 1988 that after he took over the militia in 1986 he found no trace of the missing men and blamed his predecessor, Elie Hobeika, for their disappearance and apparent murder.

Iranian President Hahsemi Rafsanjani said in October 1989: "If you say they are not alive, at least you can give us back their bodies or show us their graves."

Musawi's pro-Syrian faction is part of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, or Party of God. That is believed to be the parent organisation of Shi'ite extremists holding most of the 16 Westerners missing in Lebanon.

They are six Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Italian and an Irishman.

Musawi is the reputed mentor of the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, which holds American professors Alan Steen and Jesse Turner.

The group freed U.S. educator Robert Polhill, 55, April 22 after 39 months in captivity.

The move was followed by the April 30 release of another American, Frank Reed, 57, after being held hostage for 42 months by a group calling itself the Organisation of Islamic Dawn.

Following the releases, the kidnappers and Iranian officials called on U.S. President George Bush to reciprocate with a conciliatory gesture.

They asked that the fate of the

missing Iranians be determined. Bush has said the United States could try to help learn their fate.

Musawi said he believes no more hostages will be freed before the Israelis free some 400 Lebanese and Palestinians held by them and their militia allies in South Lebanon. That is another key demand made by the kidnappers and Iran.

"If the kidnappers' mind is sound and their religion is sound, they will not free any more hostages," Musawi said. "And I think they won't."

"If the Americans want to solve the hostage issue, they should solve the problem of the Muslims and the oppressed held by Israel and its surrogates," he added.

Israel has said it is not opposed to a swap in principle, but stressed that an exchange should include three Israeli servicemen captured in Lebanon in 1986 and believed held by radical Shi'ites linked to Hizbollah.

Bush has declared that the United States would have no objection to Israel freeing prisoners. But he said Washington will make no move of its own until all six American hostages still held in Lebanon have been freed unconditionally.

"The Americans have reacted to the release like cowboys, like real cowboys," Musawi said. "Was it really time for them to open their mouths and talk?"

He was referring to a U.S. State Department report issued a day after Reed's release that listed Iran and Syria as states supporting terrorism even as Bush was publicly thanking them for their help.

Israel Tuesday again insisted that any deal to release Western

hostages held by Lebanese militants should include freedom for all missing Israeli servicemen.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner said the statement was issued in response to two senior U.S. senators, Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Robert Dole.

They had urged the Jewish state to free its Arab "hostages" as demanded by Iran and its Lebanese allies in the Shi'ite Muslim Hizbollah (Party of God).

A government statement insisted Israel would only consider freeing the Arabs if it received six Israeli servicemen who went missing in Lebanon in return.

Israel believes Hizbollah holds three of them — an airman shot down in 1986 and two infantrymen ambushed in Israel's self-declared Lebanon "security zone" earlier that year.

It thinks another group of three, a tank crew missing after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, were captured by Syria or Syrian-backed Palestinian fighters.

"Israel again declares its readiness to release Lebanese detainees it holds in exchange for the return of all its (Israeli) prisoners and those missing in action."

"(Israel) will certainly be ready to take part and to make its contribution to any move that will bring about a release of all the hostages, on the condition that as part of this its prisoners and those missing will be returned."

General Antoine Lahad, head of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, ruled out exchanging his 300 Arab prisoners for the Western hostages unless SLA members and the six missing Israelis were also freed.

Benjedid: Islam and politics should not mix

ALGIERS (R) — President Chadli Benjedid, whose government is under fire from Islamic fundamentalists, has plunged into a debate raging in Algeria over relations between Islam and politics by saying the two should not mix.

In his first public remarks since tens of thousands of Muslim fundamentalists marched on his palace last month ahead of the first free elections in June, Benjedid attacked what he called an Islam of charlatanism and demagoguery.

"Islam, which is a sacred religion, should not be mixed with politics and the manoeuvres of parties so as to diminish its value," he told Islamic scholars attending a conference on the fu-

ture of Islam Monday.

An escalating war of words pits the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) against Benjedid's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), the two main contestants in the June 12 local elections.

FLN officials have stepped up attacks on the FIS in recent weeks, denouncing its control of major urban mosques and portraying it as an extremist deviation from the Islam traditionally practised in Algeria.

A four-day conference organised by the Lend-based Centre for Studies on the Future of Islam essentially endorsed the FLN's view of a moderate, democratic Islam, and Chadli did not hide his satisfaction.

FIS spokesman Abbas Madani, who was not invited, dismissed the conference as "drawing room Islam," Algerian Radio said.

Benjedid, 61, launched the country on a difficult road to multi-party democracy after October 1988 youth riots.

He has announced free elections for municipal and provincial councils on June 12 but resisted to dissolve parliament, still entirely FLN and not due for reelection until 1992.

The fundamentalists, drawing on economic discontent and widespread dissatisfaction with 27 years of one-party rule, showed unprecedented boldness by marching into Benjedid's front

yard to demand parliamentary elections within three months.

Benjedid Monday warned the fundamentalists and other opponents to respect the rule of democracy. "Neither the Algerian people nor its system will accept that power be taken from above or by exploiting the social and economic difficulties of the country," he said.

The FLN launched a campaign last month to denounce the use of Friday sermons in the mosques for political ends.

But the fiery young FIS preacher Ali Benhadj told worshippers in the capital's Kouba Mosque last Friday, "we are in the mosques like the fish are in the sea."

Darawshe fed up with racist slanders from Israeli MPs

TEL AVIV (R) — An Arab member of Israel's parliament said Tuesday he wanted jail terms for right-wingers using the name "Mohammed" as a racist slur.

Abdul Wahab Darawshe, head of the Arab Democratic Party, told Reuters right-wing politicians call him Mohammed instead of his real name as an ethnic slur.

He said he would seek legislation to provide six-month jail terms for people using ethnic names in a racist way. He said Mohammed was a typical Arab name and its deliberate use indicated bigotry.

U.S. voices concern about Israeli arms with drug lords

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has told Israel it is concerned about a weapons shipment from the Jewish state that ended up in the hands of Colombian drug traffickers, the state department has said.

The 500 weapons and ammunition, worth some \$200,000, were recovered by Colombian government officials after Colombian drug lord Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha was killed by police in December 1989.

The arms were ostensibly sold by Israel to opponents of former Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega trying to organise an invasion force on the Caribbean island of Antigua.

"We do not know how these weapons ended up in the hands of the Rodriguez Gacha organisation," said a State Department spokesman.

"We are clearly concerned when government-licensed weapons end up in the hands of narcotics-trafficking organisations. We urge governments involved to aggressively investigate the incident and take appropriate judicial action," Boucher said.

Israeli court orders full disclosure of coalition deals

TEL AVIV (R) — The supreme court, responding to appeals from Israelis disgusted by their politicians' intrigues, ruled Tuesday that political parties must make public all coalition agreements before forming a government.

The ruling followed growing public demands for reform of a political system which leaves the balance of power with small ultra-religious parties and individual defectors who extort a high price for their support.

"This is a great day for democracy and for the protest movement," said Eli Shragar, an electoral reform campaigner on hunger strike outside parliament who petitioned the supreme court.

"The court established... that the public has a right to know what is in the coalition agreements — what is done with its property and its money. I have no doubt that when things will be in the open, they will be done more carefully," he said.

Both major Israeli parties, the center-left Labour and the right-

Yemens to speed up unity declaration to forestall problems

SANAA (R) — North and South Yemen have decided to speed up their planned merger to forestall any attempts to undermine the creation of the Arabian peninsula's most populous country, diplomats and officials in the North say.

They said a formal announcement of the new Yemen Republic would be made about six months ahead of schedule, after the two parliaments meet to ratify its draft constitution during the last week of this month.

Initial plans called for the birth of the new state to be declared on Nov. 30 after a popular vote on the constitution at the end of a transition period following ratification.

"The unity process is being speeded up to avoid the possibility of outside interference, mainly through manipulation of religious forces inside the country," said one member of parliament who wished to remain anonymous.

North Yemeni Information Minister Hassan Al Lauzi would not confirm a widely quoted date of May 26 but told Reuters: "I do not discount declaring the Yemeni Republic within two or three weeks."

Yemeni officials from both states have warned of threats to the merger that would end more than 300 years of division between the countries, which have fought fierce border wars in their more recent past.

South Yemen's minister of state for union affairs, Rashid Muhammad Thabit, said in an interview earlier this year that "hostile internal forces" with outside links were threatening the merger.

North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh told a rally last month that those who were "trying to plant thorns on the road to Yemeni unity under the pretext of Islam or through strange and radical ideas" would fail.

No fingers have been pointed publicly. Privately, officials say they believe neighbouring Saudi Arabia viewed the creation of a unified Yemeni state along its southern border with some apprehension.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd publicly supported the union moves after a visit to Riyadh by Saleh in February.

But diplomats and officials in Sanaa say the kingdom is uncomfortable with idea of a united Yemen enjoying a more liberal political system and a population of some 13 million.

Saudi Arabia also has about 13 million residents but Yemenis are a significant proportion of the total.

The draft constitution guarantees a multi-party system. Socialist South Yemen is now ruled by a single party and the North has no

political parties.

"I suspect the main reason for putting the unity announcement where it is expected now is to forestall any difficulties which might arise," one senior diplomat said.

"If there is any attempt by any of Yemen's neighbours to cause difficulties then the quicker they get into a strong position the less likely it is to happen."

Saudi Arabia has strong links with fiercely independent tribes living on the disputed borders with the two Yemens.

Reports last month of clashes with tribesmen in the northern border town of Saadah have been discounted by officials and foreign diplomats in Sanaa but underline the tension preceding the unity announcement.

The tribes have clashed periodically with North Yemeni authorities on property and trading issues. Diplomats say that although they are happy to accept Saudi handouts, the northern tribes are not opposed to the government as such and ultimately would remain staunch Yemenis.

"These tribes have reservations but more about the content of unity rather than the act of unity," one diplomat said.

"The major groups will most likely go with the system and try to retain the maximum interest they can within it."

A widely respected North Yemeni religious leader living in Saudi Arabia said in December that the unity constitution could undermine Islam but he subsequently said he did not oppose the merger, diplomats said.

They said Muslim fundamentalists in North Yemen object to article three of the new constitution, which says Islam will be "the main source of legislation" rather than "the source of legislation" as in the present constitution.

There are also some groups in South Yemen who view reintegration as a betrayal of the Socialist system adopted when it gained independence from Britain in 1967.

Once a staunch proponent of Marxism, the country has pulled back from its pro-Moscow leftist dogma and has been liberalising its economic and political institutions in preparation for the merger.

Diplomats said that under revised unity plans, transitional provisions in the draft constitution would be dropped.

The six-month transition period would be extended to at least two years to allow ample time for ministries to merge, political parties to form, and existing parliaments to complete their terms, they said.

Elections would be held at the end of that period.

Seminar begins on peace and justice in Palestine

AMMAN (J.T.) — A five-day seminar was opened in Stockholm, Sweden on "peace and justice for the Palestinian people", with the participation of leading Palestinian representatives, Israeli members of Knesset and a long list of international political personalities.

Several panel discussions will be organised during the seminar. The first, in the Palestinian Dr. Sari Nusseibeh from occupied Arab Jerusalem and Mr. Dedi Zucker, a member of the Israeli Knesset, will participate in

"breaking the impasse — the urgent need for a just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine: the international peace conference and the role of Europe." European politicians will participate as well as Mr. Faisal Hussein, head of the Arab Studies Centre, Mr. Nabeel Shaath, chairman of the Political Committee of the Palestine National Council (PNC), and Mr. Moshe Amirav, secretary-general of the Israeli Shitni Party.

Mr. Khaled Al Hassan, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the PNC will speak on the role of the PLO in the political, economic, social and cultural development of the Palestinian people.

The second panel is entitled

Palestinians blocked from building as Jewish housing rises

By Jack Redden
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Palestinians who are routinely refused permission to build new houses in occupied Arab Jerusalem are watching bitterly while workers erect thousands of homes for newly arrived Soviet Jews.

"When you talk about law, it is different for Jews than for Palestinians," said Mohammad Masri, chairman of the Community Association in the neighbourhood of Beit Hanina.

The circle of Jewish housing around the Arab areas of East Jerusalem is being drawn tighter. Israel allocated funds this month to build 7,500 units in Jerusalem for Soviet immigrants, most on land near Beit Hanina.

Amir Cheshin, city adviser on Arab affairs, says some

30,000 housing units have been built for Jews since Israeli troops occupied Arab East Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East war.

The city says it does not have figures for Arab housing but a glance at a landscape crowded with fresh Israeli construction supports the Palestinian view that few new houses belong to Arabs.

Officially the reason for the discrepancy is legal — the absence of zoning plans that would allow the city to give building permits.

After more than two decades of debate, and a whitening down of the number of houses that would be permitted, a plan appeared last year for part of East Jerusalem. Arabs say it is so restrictive it will have no effect.

Most vacant land Palestinians could use is in the north

of the city, including Beit Hanina. But after 23 years of waiting, there is still no sign of a zoning plan emerging from the Israeli government for that area.

"For the new Jewish quarters it makes two weeks and there is a cornerstone," Masri told Reuters. "The main point is political."

Even replacing existing houses is difficult. Residents are told to destroy their present homes and move to a hotel before building new ones.

Arabs are allowed only two or three floors, while they watch eight-storey buildings rise in neighbouring Jewish areas.

With a population of some 150,000 Palestinians and a high birthrate, residents frequently turn to building without permits.

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birthrate, residents frequently turn to building without permits.

City authorities have often ignored illegal building, or contented themselves with periodic fines. But the city announced plans recently to flatten an Arab shop and four homes housing 42 people.

"It's not put you in a box so you can't expand on your own land," said Ziad Darwazh, director of the Beit Hanina Association.

The housing debate is inseparable from the wider Israeli-Palestinian struggle. Israelis claim Jerusalem their "united capital." Arabs consider the eastern half to be the capital of the state of Palestine.

Few countries recognise Israel's annexation of the Arab areas, on the grounds that the status of the city remains to be negotiated, a position that in-

terlates Israeli leaders.

While the goal of more liberal Jews such as Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek is to keep the present proportion of Arabs in the city frozen at about 28 per cent of the population, those on the right of Israeli politics hope Palestinians will just leave.

"To flee from here — no way," said Darwazh. "We will stay."

He is probably right. If for no other reason than residents have few places to go. Emigration to other countries is ex-

ceeded by new births and thousands of Palestinians slipping into the city without Israeli permission.

But the restrictions are squeezing the standard of living. The housing shortage has helped push rents to levels far out of line with incomes, de-

caying older houses cannot be replaced and increasing numbers of people live in illegal houses under the threat of a demolition order.

Yusef Khourey, a U.S.-educated consulting engineer and head of the Holy Land Housing Society, estimates a pent-up demand among Jerusalem Arabs for 20,000 homes.

His Vatican-supported society has been seeking approval to build a 32-unit apartment block for eight years. His own house now has an Israeli army centre on one side and construction for the new Jewish community of Pitsat Zeev East on the other.

"Unless you house people, something is going to happen Khourey told Reuters. "There is going to be growing desperation, like what has happened in Gaza and refugee camps."

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:00	Koran
15:45	Programme review
17:20	Children's programme
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Cairo news message
18:20	Local programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Arabic programme
22:00	News in Arabic
22:40	Play
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	La Valise en Carton
18:40	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Horror and Disaster
21:10	Horror and Disaster
22:00	News in English
22:30	Alien to Nowhere
PRAYER TIMES	
04:13	Fajr
05:20	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:35	Dhuhr
16:12	'Asr
19:25	Maghreb
20:52	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swaidah, Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrestrial Church Tel. 623466	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654922	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Khashimi weather conditions will prevail, making it hot and dusty. Winds will be easterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
Amman	Min./max. temp. 12/29
Aqaba	18/35
Jericho	12/31
Jordan Valley	15/34
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	600341
Rescue	199
Civil Defence Emergency	637777
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Stood Bank	772121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	600321
Hotel Complaints	600800
Price Complaints	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amman Hospital	674155
ZARQA	609332/33
Zarga Govt. Hospital	(09)983233
Zarga National Hospital	(09)991071
Ibn Naja Hospital	(09)987632
Prisons	602175/55
Prisons Bama Hospital	(02)272775
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272775
Ibn Al-Nafis Hospital	(02)274700
AQABA	603314111
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
Amman	815815
Electric Power	771111
Water and Sewerage	897467

21:20	Damascus (PK)	
22:20	Paris, Damascus (AF)	

MARKET PRICES	
Uppecflower price in lbs per kg.	
Almonds	800 / 700
Apple	850 / 750
Banana	420 / 320
Beans (Mekmami)	400 / 320
Beans	350 / 300
Broad beans	250 / 200
Cabbages	90 / 60
Carrots	140 / 100
Cauliflowers	260 / 220
Cucumbers (large)	160 / 120
Cucumbers (small)	300 / 260
Dates	400 / 350
Eggplants	180 / 120
Garlic	500 / 400
Green beans	260 / 220
Lentils	320 / 280
Onions (per one)	120 / 100
Malwos	160 / 120
Marrows (large)	400 / 350
Marrows (small)	350 / 300
Onion (dry)	280 / 240
Onion (green)	200 / 150
Orange (Shamoun)	340 / 300
Oranges	420 / 400
Pears	280 / 240
Pepper (hot)	120 / 100
Pepper (sweet)	160 / 120
Potatoes	340 / 280
Radishes	150 / 100
Spinach	400 / 300
Tomatoes	220 / 180
Turnips	200 / 180

DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
16:00	Aqaba (RJ)
11:00	Kuwait (RJ)
12:15	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
13:00	Paris, London (RJ)
20:00	Kuwait (RJ)
20:05	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:00	Hyderabad (RJ)
21:10	New Delhi (RJ)
22:15	Dhahran (RJ)
22:20	Cairo (RJ)
21:45	Alex, Dhahran (RJ)
22:45	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:20	Rome (AZ)
06:25	Larnaca, Zurich (SR)
11:00	Banghead (IA)
11:55	Cairo (MS)
12:00	Jeddah (NE)
13:30	Bahrain (OE)
14:00	Banghead (IN)
14:15	Jeddah, Sana'a (TV)
14:25	
15:25	Bahrain (IK)
20:25	Sana'a (LH)

Narcotics bureau to aid Jordan fight drugs

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) has decided to provide assistance to Jordan to help its efforts in fighting narcotics and to stem drug trafficking in the Arab world, according to Brigadier Hassan Al Qaisi, director of the Amman-based Arab Bureau for Narcotics (ABN).

Normally the INCB provides assistance to countries with drug addiction to help them overcome this problem. Qaisi said in a lecture on the drug problems of the Arab World.

Addressing an audience at the Royal Cultural Centre Qaisi said that recently a charitable society had been created in Jordan to help combat drugs and assist the concerned official authorities in the fight against this danger.

The Vienna-based INCB, established in 1961, supervises the implementation of the drug control treaties by governments and helps nations with drug problems.

According to Qaisi, a total of 669,743 kilograms of various types of drugs were seized in the Arab World between 1984 and 1988.

He said drug traffickers were mostly apprehended trying to smuggle hashish, opium and heroin, but also 53 million pills of dangerous drugs were seized during the same period according to statistics available to the bureau.

He said that a total 75,146 people involved in the drug trafficking business were apprehended in the course of the drug busting operations in the Arab World alone between 1984 and 1988.

"A total of \$330 billion worth of drugs were sold around the world in 1988, half of which in the United States," Qaisi said.

Referring to the situation in the occupied Arab territories, Qaisi said that the Israeli authorities were easing restrictions in matters related to drug trafficking and drug addiction in the Arab region, while enforcing laws against the Israelis addicts.

Municipality quits plans for downtown Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Greater Amman Municipality has abandoned a JD 4 million plan for appropriating land and real estate in downtown Amman and demolishing buildings in several districts to ease traffic congestion in the capital, according to Amman Mayor Ali Suheimat.

"We have taken the decision after reviewing the municipality's financial position and have opted to postpone such major project for the time being," the mayor said following a visit to Ruseifa where he inspected a garbage dumping site.

"At present, the municipality will appropriate real estate near the old market place at the cost of JD 134,000 to help ease traffic around that particular area in Amman," Suheimat added.

But he said that the municipality is inclined to delay taking action in this regard too until a solution for the problem of merchants, who will be affected by the decision, has been found.

The mayor was referring to an earlier decision taken by the municipal council to pull down a shopping centre and subsequent merchants' complaints.

The mayor spoke to reporters following his visit to the Ruseifa garbage dump and meeting with officials at the site.

"A special committee to study the problem of bad smell which caused the outcry of the local residents is continuing its work on this matter and the municipality will abide by the committee's decision in this affair," Suheimat said.

Local citizens had been complaining about the smell from the dumping ground and just before Eid Al Fitr they staged a sit-in at the site, blocking entrances and preventing trucks from reaching the grounds.

According to the mayor, a new technique is being adopted now at a site of 700 dunums, with garbage teams covering the garbage and spraying insecticides on a regular basis.

The mayor said the committee would investigate the causes of the smell and report on the matter before any further action can be taken.

Jordan-Sweden trade ties to become stronger

By Ziyad Al Shilleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Sweden will help Jordan set up a commercial studies centre for the benefit of Jordanian exporters and will provide experts to work out training programmes and transfer Swedish expertise to the Kingdom, according to Amman Chamber of Industry President Khalidoun Abu Hassan.

Also a delegation representing the Amman Chamber of Industry will pay a visit to Sweden in six months' time to hold talks with officials and importers and pave the way for exporting Jordan's national products to Sweden's markets, Abu Hassan announced.

At a press conference following the conclusion of a two-day seminar on marketing Jordanian products in Sweden held at Amman Chamber of Industry.

"The delegation to visit Sweden will agree with importers there on types of products and procedures for delving into the

Swedish markets," said Abu Hassan.

"Jordanian exporters have already had contacts with Swedish markets over the marketing of certain types of Jordanian goods and the Swedish side expressed desire to import Jordan's agricultural products, clothing, and pharmaceuticals and industrial equipment," Abu Hassan announced.

Abu Hassan said the seminar was an important step towards opening the Swedish markets for Jordanian exporters.

"Delegates attending the seminar included representatives of four major Swedish organisations specialising in importing products from developing nations, the Federation of Swedish Commerce and Trade and the Swedish Trade Bank which finances imports," Abu Hassan said.

He said 120 Jordanian businessmen and representatives of major Jordanian industrial and agricultural firms who took part in the seminar displayed great interest in exporting products to

Sweden.

Abu Hassan said the Amman Chamber of Industry will seek to organise a Jordanian trade exhibition in Stockholm next year especially since Swedish organisations have offered facilities for holding such an exhibition.

Following the conclusion of the meetings, Sweden's ambassador to Jordan Lars Lonnback told the Jordan Times that one of the Swedish experts had left for the occupied Arab lands to hold contacts with Palestinian exporters on the prospect of selling products to Sweden.

"Palestine will in the future become a trade partner of Sweden and whatever agreements might be reached with Jordan could be applied to Palestine as well," the ambassador said.

Lonnback also said that Swedish-Jordanian trade ties are important since visitors to Jordan's archaeological sites and industrial centres can help promote bilateral cooperation.



Jordanian artists display work

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by five young Jordanian artists opened May 8 at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Gallery.

The exhibition includes silkscreen monoprints by Ghada Dahdaleh, sandstone sculptures by Larissa Najjar, watercolours and collages by Mohammad Samara (above), china inks by Rula

Shukairy on gouaches and inks by Adnan Yahya. The gallery opens from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday through Wednesday, and from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday. The show will run until June 6.

The Shoman Foundation Gallery is located on the fifth floor of the Arab Jordan Investment Bank building in Shmeqani.

Spanish official visits Jordan, calls on Israel to talk peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — Spain calls on Israel to respond favourably to peace initiatives and urges it to help give momentum to the peace process in the Middle East, according to a senior Spanish official here Tuesday.

Fernando Perpinia, secretary-general of the Spanish Foreign Ministry made the statement upon his arrival here for a two-day visit for talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and other senior officials.

"Spain and the European Community are concerned about the latest developments in the

Middle East especially in view of the Soviet Jewish immigration into Palestine and the obstacles placed in the path of peaceful solutions," said Perpinia in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"The European Community's Madrid declaration made clear the community's stand vis-a-vis the Middle East problem," the Spanish official said.

"The declaration called for an international Middle East peace conference which will result in the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people including their right to self-determination," Perpinia added.

He said that the Palestine Li-

beration Organisation (PLO) should be a full partner in any international peace efforts and Israel should respond to the calls for peace.

"Spain condemns any human rights violations against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories," Perpinia said.

He added that the European Community attaches special importance to its ties with Jordan in a view of the Kingdom's role in promoting the cause of peace.

He said his visit to Jordan was in the course of efforts to bolster Spanish-Jordanian cooperation in political, developmental and tourism fields.

NMI president promises better health services

Doctors rally behind NMI

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Seventy doctors representing about 1,000 doctors delegated by the Ministry of Health to work at the National Medical Institution (NMI) hospitals decided at the end of a meeting to send a cable to His Majesty King Hussein asking for support and revival of the institution. The doctors said a just system should be used to avoid the negative aspects which would result if the NMI were dissolved.

Press reports had said that the NMI, which started operations in July 1988 when all hospitals operated by the Ministry of Health, the Armed Forces and the Jordanian universities came under its direct control, would soon be dissolved.

In the meeting which was held to discuss the future of NMI President of the Jordan Doctors Association Mamdouh Al Abbadi affirmed the association's keenness to improve the level of health services in Jordan. He affirmed the association's determination to unify health services and provide them to citizens all over the Kingdom.

In reference to the Cabinet's decision to refer the NMI law to the Lower House of Parliament to decide whether to keep it,

adjust it or cancel it, Abbadi said that dissolving the NMI does not serve doctors working at the institution nor citizens benefiting from its services.

Abbadi said NMI suffered mismanagement and it should be given the chance to redeem itself.

Dr. Azmi Sharaiheh of Al Bashir Hospital said: "We are facing a new situation which creates confusion for us, since we were working in the Ministry of Health hospitals before being delegated to work at the NMI hospitals."

Sharaiheh called the public sector doctors to support the association's stand "to make our point of view reach the Lower House of Parliament and the public opinion."

He also called members of Parliament to meet hospital doctors in Maan, Karak and other cities to hear their opinions and suggested forming a follow up committee to be headed by Abbadi and which will represent all former Health Ministry hospitals.

Dr. Mahmoud Al Awad of Al Zarqa Hospital said the NMI law had given a comprehensive perspective and it was a perfect law made imperfect by those who supervised its implementation.

Other doctors speaking at the meeting called for unifying stands

and asking the general assembly of Jordan Doctors Association to meet soon to counter the situation.

They also asked for close cooperation with the Jordanian dentists, pharmacists and nurses associations.

They also demanded that the delegated doctors, who form about 60 per cent of the doctors working at the NMI, have a role in managing NMI in the future. They denounced the discriminating policy between them and doctors working at Al Hussein Medical Centre and the University of Jordan Hospital, which they said, operate under the umbrella of the NMI.

At the conclusion of their meeting they decided to send cables to His Majesty King Hussein, the prime minister, speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, chairman of the health committees of the two Houses and other concerned authorities.

They also decided to form a committee comprising of a doctor at each hospital to contact deputies in the Kingdom's governorates and districts to explain their perspective and gain support for preserving the NMI. The pharmacists and the nurses associations to gain support for keeping the NMI.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Greek president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable to the Greek President Constantine Karamanlis, congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on his election as President of Greece. The King voiced hope that the existing cooperation and relations would be further enhanced, and that both leaderships would work together to ensure the freedom of worship in Jerusalem for followers of all faiths.

Queen opens costumes exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday opened the Jordanian costumes exhibition, organised by Philadelphia Lions Club to raise funds for charitable work. The items on display at the exhibition being held at the Jordan International Exhibition, were designed by Rabab Odeh and Abia Azer, both from Jordan. The exhibition includes silver jewellery, embroideries, traditional costumes, and modern designs for traditional dresses.

Building materials exhibition to open

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, a five-day exhibition of construction and building materials organised by the Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation will be held Wednesday at the Amman International Exhibition. Taking part in the exhibition will be 62 companies, in addition to the Housing Corporation, the Urban Development Department, the Royal Scientific Society and the Jordan Electricity Authority.

Zarqa municipality cancels loans

AMMAN (Petra) — Zarqa municipal committee cancelled two loans worth JD 700,000, including JD 100,000 for the central vegetable market, JD 300,000 for the construction of parking lots and JD 300,000 for the construction of pavements.

CAEU to hold meeting in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The committee of the permanent representatives of Arab member states in the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) will hold a meeting Wednesday at CAEU general secretariat in Amman. The committee will discuss the agenda of the 53rd ordinary session for the ministerial council of CAEU which will convene in Cairo June 7. Of the most important topics on the agenda will be the secretary-general's report which deals with international economic developments, particularly efforts in Europe to establish a unified European economy and the Arab reactions to such changes represented in holding Arab economic groupings. Participants in the meeting will start arriving in Amman as of Tuesday.

Syrian delegation visits Health Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — A Syrian delegation of officials from the Ministry of Health's Drug Industries Department Tuesday visited the Health Ministry and the Pharmaceutical and Drug Industries Department where they were briefed on the establishment and development of drug industries in Jordan. The delegation members also met with the ministry's Secretary-general Adnan Abbas and exchanged views with him on drug industries in Jordan.

Red Crescent officials returns

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Standing Committee for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, who is also president of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society, Ahmad Abu Qoura Tuesday voiced hope that a new international organisation, other than the International Committee for the Red Cross would be established in the occupied Arab territories to force Israel to stick to the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention on the

protection of civilian population. Upon arriving in Amman from Geneva, where he chaired the meetings of the Standing Committee last Tuesday, Abu Qoura called on the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly, and other international organisations to support the creation of an international body in the occupied territories to alleviate the sufferings of Arab citizens.

Arab Youth Forum to meet Friday

AMMAN (Petra) — The general assembly of the Arab Youth Forum will discuss in a meeting to be held next Friday a recommendation by the forum's board of trustees concerning the acceptance of the Jordanian Forum Humanism members as working members at the Arab Youth Forum. The assembly will also discuss authorising the board of trustees to adjust the basic system, provided that the adjustment be approved by the absolute majority of those eligible to vote at the general assembly.

Meeting reviews Shouneh water situation

NORTH SHOUNEH (Petra) — Water situation in North Shouneh district was the subject of discussion at a meeting held at the governorate Tuesday. The meeting was chaired by Irbid governor Jawdat Al Shoul who called on director of Irbid Water Department to immediately draw up a programme for distribution of water to the various parts of the district. The meeting was attended by the district governor Khalaf Mahasneh and Nader Dheirat, member of the Lower House of Parliament for North Shouneh, in addition to the governorate's Water Department director.

Trade centre joins world panel

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mohammad Asfour, chairman of the founding members' committee of Amman World Trade Center Corp. declared that the World Trade Center Association's board meeting held in Marseille on April 25, 1990, approved membership of Amman International Trade Centre as regular member. The founding members of Amman World Trade Center are: Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce; Amman Chamber of Industry; Jordan Commercial Centers Corporation; Jordan Industrial Estate Corporation; Jordan Trade Association; Jordan Technology Group.

JUST final exams last between May 12-19

AMMAN (J.T.) — Department of Admission and Registration in the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) announced the final exam schedule for this semester. Exams will start on Saturday 12-May-1990 and end Saturday 19-May-1990. Students at JUST will not have any conflicts in their exams and will take at most two exams in a day. The exam schedule was prepared in the University Computer Center and distributed to the students.

New names given to hold luxury wings

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan abounds with tourist sites and all towns and villages are rich with archaeological treasures which attract tourists from around the world. As part of its constant promotion, campaigns to acquaint tourists with these areas, Hotel Jordan Inter-continental general management has decided to name the hotel's luxury wings after the archaeological places in the Kingdom. The following names were given to the hotel's different wings each of which has been provided with portraits of the respective archaeological sites: Third floor — Ajloun Wing and Al Azraq Wing; Fourth floor — Al Shobak Wing and Aqaba Wing; Fifth floor — Al Karak Wing; Sixth floor — Madaba Wing and Petra Wing; Seventh floor — Amman Wing; Eighth floor — Royal Wing.

Fertiliser producers end panel, stress need for increased sales

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Federation of Chemical Fertiliser Producers (AFCEP) ended a meeting in Amman Tuesday by announcing measures to promote the sale of fertilisers produced in the Arab World to benefit farming projects.

The federation's Secretary-General Dr. Mamoun Youssef Abu Khader said in a statement at the final session that the AFCEP will immediately embark on a programme of cooperation with the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) and with the Arab ministries of agriculture and research centres for the sake of increasing the sale of fertilisers that would help produce larger volumes of crops and ensure food security for the Arab World.

"The participants reviewed several working papers dealing with the production and marketing of fertilisers in Arab states

Heart Day race postponed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Heart Day Race, which was scheduled to be held Friday under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, was postponed until June, according to organising committee sources. The sources attributed the postponement decision to another event, which will be held on the same day, Friday May 11 MAP (Medical Aid for Palestinians) march will kick off Friday morning.

'Aqaba incident most serious'

(Continued from page 1)

Israel Television reported Monday that an Israeli navy boat came within 100 metres of the yacht and members of the crew took pictures of the monarch.

It said the Israeli patrol boat also fired its two 20-millimetre guns as part of a "weapons check" when the King's craft was one kilometre from the Israeli vessel, it said.

Israel's military command issued a statement Friday denying media reports that the boat fired

at the royal yacht as it sailed in the international waters. It said some shots, part of a routine weapons check, were fired while the monarch's craft was in the vicinity, and that the shots were aimed in another direction.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said last week that the U.S. ambassador to Israel, William Brown, has expressed deep concern to the Israeli government over the matter. Brown was told the Israelis have taken steps to avoid another such incident, he said.

Baltic republics push collision

(Continued from page 1)

a law passed by the Soviet parliament last month.

Gorbachev has repeatedly denounced Lithuania's proclamation of immediate independence from Moscow.

He has also denounced the Estonians' more measured approach and is reported to have said the same about Latvia, holding out the prospect of punitive action.

All three republics are preparing for official ceremonies Wednesday to mark the 45th

anniversary of the Nazi surrender — despite official objections in both Vilnius and Tallinn, capital of Estonia.

Estonian deputies voted by 73 to 14 with two abstentions to change their republic's name to republic of Estonia from the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic.

After deciding to restore the pre-war state symbols to official use, the independent Estonian black, blue and white flag was run up outside the parliament building.

Iraq has 'nuclear triggers'

(Continued from page 1)

patriotism. So how can an honest and patriotic man retract from such a course?" he said.

"Anyone who says that he is independent in his country should check that with his scientific and technical development, and this applies especially to the Arabs," he said.

United Nations inspectors said Tuesday that they had found no evidence that Iraq was diverting material from its nuclear energy programme to military use.

Official of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors had carried out routine safeguard inspections of Iraq's nuclear facilities in early April and informed Baghdad of its findings last week.

"Based upon the data collected between March 1989 and April 1990 the conclusion was reached that all material under safeguards

was accounted for," the IAEA said. It said it had issued the statement at the request of Iraqi authorities.

The row over the capacitors sparked fears in Baghdad that Israel might stage a raid similar to its 1981 attack that destroyed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor near the capital.

President Hussein warned that if the Israelis attacked Iraq again, he would retaliate with binary chemical weapons.

The president accused the major Western powers of having tried to prevent Iraq acquiring modern technology to improve its military potential.

Referring to the Arab confrontation with Israel, he said the struggle would be a long one.

But he added: "I tell them we are confident that the result of the battle will be victory for the Arab Nation against its enemies and the defeat of those enemies."

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Houria Al Iraqi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Jordanian national heritage at the Amman International Community College.
- ★ Exhibition of traditional industries and handicrafts displaying rugs, knit-wear, traditional costumes and brass works at Madaba Resthouse.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by five Jordanian artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.

CONCERT

- ★ 'Ud (Arab lute) recital by Adel Salameh at the British Council at 7:00 p.m. (entrance free).

DIALOGUE

- ★ Open dialogue with Moroccan writer Jari Mohammad at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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When will the Intifada wake them up?

WHILE the Arab leaders are bickering about where and when to hold their summit, the intensity of the Palestinian Intifada accelerates to new dimensions. The latest Israeli curfew on more than 120,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip has yet to make an impact on the Arab leaders who do not seem to be sufficiently perturbed by the brutal events occurring daily in the occupied territories. Nor have the reports about the fallen Palestinians succeeded in adding a sense of urgency to the Arab deliberations about the venue and timing of an Arab summit. It is unconscionable that the Arab capitals have become so careless about what goes on around them whether in the West Bank and Gaza Strip or anywhere else for that matter. Arab history will certainly not glorify those who act indifferently to the dangers and challenges posed at the footsteps of the Arab Nation. Nor would the Arabs view the procrastination in convening an Arab summit. Had democracy been the order of the day in the Arab World such degree of Arab irresponsibility would not and could not be so rampant in our midst. Accordingly as long as the Arab people have no say in the major decisions affecting their lot and enjoy no meaningful mechanism and forum to give expression to their yearnings and aspirations, the disarray in the Arab order would continue unabated.

Baghdad is an Arab capital which is the object of Western conspiracies. It would seem natural and logical to have it host the proposed Arab summit. The fact that there is an Arab consensus in favour of holding the summit there should have encouraged the rest of the Arab countries to accommodate the wish of the majority. For how long is the veto power within the Arab ranks going to be allowed to frustrate the desires of the majority? If the Arab World cannot enjoy democracy even at the level of their heads of state, then there is no hope of ever introducing it to their respective peoples.

To yield to Arab majority is an act of chivalry of the first order. The Arab capital which accepts the judgement of the majority of the Arab countries on the summit idea or any other idea stands to gain the respect and appreciation of the entire Arab World from the Gulf to the ocean. There is therefore every hope and conviction that Damascus would not fail the Arab World in this matter and would choose not to appear as the stumbling block in the path of holding the urgently needed Arab summit.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday praised Saudi Arabia for its current endeavours to convene an Arab summit meeting and to end differences among Arab leadership. Commenting on Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz's current tour in the Arab states to pave the ground for the Arab summit, the paper said that the immense challenges facing the Arab Nation and the ongoing Soviet Jewish immigration into Palestine as well as the other dangers posed to the Arabs should prompt their leaders to embark on a summit without any hesitation. The summit is only one step to deal with the dangers and the common threats posed to the Arabs since they face an onslaught directed against the whole Arab order and not one country alone, the paper continued. It said that the Saudi prince's tour reflects the importance Saudi Arabia attaches to the coming summit and the reconciliation of Arab leaders before such a meeting can be convened if it is to achieve success. Inter-Arab differences, the paper said, can by no means serve the Arab national goals.

Writing in Al Ra'i, columnist Khaled Mahadin says that world Zionism is gathering Jews from around the world and forcing them to settle in occupied Palestine where their final suicide is bound to occur. The writer says that the Jews, arriving like pirates on board ships, are bound to face angry Arabs ready to fight for their survival; and thus the coming confrontation is inevitable. The Jews arriving in occupied Arab lands, says Mahadin, will not find the land they had been promised a bed of roses, nor will they find bags full of money and American cars awaiting them in their new homes which they will be stealing from their lawful owners in Palestine. Sooner or later, these newcomers will discover that they had been deceived and that they were led to a hell that would inevitably engulf them with its flames, the writer continues. He notes that over the past 42 years, the Jews, in occupied Palestine found that they could not integrate fully and that the Polish Jews, the French Jews, and the Eastern Jews and others retained their own identity. These Jews, he says will soon discover that the Arabs will not remain silent and that they will find guns and weapons with which they will drive out the pirates from the Arab homeland.

Al Dastour daily commented on King Hussein's statements Monday that there will be no change in the venue of the Arab summit meeting and that the summit was of paramount importance for the Arab Nation. The paper said that Saudi Arabia and Jordan have been spearheading efforts to bring about reconciliation among Arab leaders, paving the ground for the long delayed summit. The King made the statement in the light of his meeting with the Saudi crown prince with whom he reviewed Arab affairs and the challenges posed to the Arab order, said the paper. The paper said that Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz's visit to Jordan is bound to give further impetus to the joint Saudi-Jordanian efforts and is bound to bear fruit.

Economic Forum

Political sense and nonsense in U.S. Mideast policies

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

I HAVE been writing economic columns for about seven years, in which I addressed myself strictly to economic issues. One very good reason for that was that there has been no shortage of political columnists and the bewildering oversupply of writings in almost all fields especially politics. Today's column is a breakaway from that "economic" habit, an exception that proves the rule rather than refutes it. Of course my destination is politics, and more specifically, the politics of the Palestinian question or the Mideast question if some of our foreign readers wish so. Now ponder the following remarks which to me amount to puzzles:

— The Arab diplomacy and politicians have accorded the U.S. a prominent role on the assumption that the U.S. is the only power that can pressure Israel into peace compromises or into any other thing. However, the evidence of his-

tory indicates that the first and last time the U.S. exercised pressure on Israel was in the aftermath of the 1967 Suez war. Worse even, Israel has ever since been the party to pressure the U.S. to do that most successfully. The record of U.S.-Israel relations indicates that it is replete with American apologies to Israel whenever the Americans hinted at the slightest possibility of pressuring the Israeli state. Normally these apologies are followed by an American backing down and succumbing to the Israeli pressure. Unbelatedly, the Israeli viewpoint is embraced as an American stance.

— During the last forty years, Arabs have been talking about war but actually making peace while the Israelis talked about peace and practically made wars. How come that the so-called democracies of the capitalist countries heard the Arab words all along, and

ignored the Israeli deeds, all along as well? The Americans never stopped talking about solutions to the Palestinian problem. Since the early months after 1967 occupation of the Arab lands there was always something up in the air, a plan or an initiative alleged to lead to some sort of a solution. Not a single achievement was made, and after 23 years of Israeli occupation the solution is more remote. That American talk served as a powerful sedative which fooled us into endless waiting and futile patience. All along, the Israelis always insisted on what the Arabs rejected and they rejected what we later accepted in a well-designed strategy aiming at aborting all peace efforts.

— About a year ago, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat announced that the PLO recognised U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 which meant an implicit recognition of the state

of Israel. The impression of the man in Arab and Palestinian streets, was that something would be given to the PLO, the Palestinians or the Arabs in return to that recognition and that "something" would be big. What happened thereafter? Shamir announced Israel would never talk, directly or indirectly, to PLO and emphasised there was no land for peace. The Americans on their part denied Arafat even an entry visa to the U.S. to address the U.N. General Assembly. If a talk, directly or indirectly, is denied, is there any sort of rational politics that assumes that Israel will give land back to the Palestinians or the Arabs (not to mention a Palestinian state)? If a visa is withheld, who has the right to expect that the U.S. will pressure Israel into anything? Nevertheless, the illusion of the Arabs with the American goes on.

— The final remark relates

to the resolution of the Congress decreeing Jerusalem as the perpetual capital of Israel. That resolution comes as one that that "something" would be actions which characterise the so-called American way of life and of thinking. If the domain of the Congress of the greatest capitalist democracy reaches that far, what will the situation be if the Congress decided that Peking is the capital of Taiwan? The Bush administration announced that the resolution does not commit it. Things must be that way because otherwise imagine a situation where the Congress decides that Lithuania, for example, is an American state.

To link up with our original subject, we finish this breakaway from economics by a remark relating to the breakthrough achieved by the IMF in Morocco. Last week news, carried to us the success of the IMF in convincing Morocco to

devalue its dirham. Some months earlier, the IMF also forced another currency devaluation in Tunisia. Last year the fund was successful in forcing Egypt to devalue its pound. A little bit earlier, it tried to lure Sudan into devaluing its pound. By now, currency devaluation has become a universal standard prescription marketed by the IMF in all developing countries. Devaluation is promoted under the pretext that it gives domestic exports a price advantage to compete with foreign products. Our concluding remark is that if all or most developing countries are to devalue their currencies in pursuance of IMF recommendations, the conceived price advantage will be wiped out. What must follow is the conclusion that currency devaluation, in the final analysis, only imposes austerity on developing countries in order to enhance their capacity to repay their external debt. Is this a biased conclusion?

Missing peace opportunity will lead region to catastrophe

The following article is reprinted in full from the May 6 issue of the Los Angeles Times.

By HRH Crown Prince Hassan

AMMAN — The world's attention has focused these past few weeks on the release of hostages in Lebanon. But other than this long-playing human drama, the Middle East seems curiously passive.

The region's longstanding problems — Palestine, the occupied territories, Lebanon, the Gulf, economic development — seem nowhere near equitable solutions. Serious efforts by Arabs and Israelis to get the peace process advancing meaningfully seem equally absent.

Yet there is an unprecedented opportunity for the Israelis to accommodate their neighbours and seriously tackle the festering issues that have haunted our region for generations. Jordan stands ready to seize the opportunity in a spirit of cooperation and goodwill.

But the opportunity for a genuinely lasting peace in our region diminishes — and recedes — daily.

An expanding, international, fundamentalist Islamic movement, influential in the politics of Muslim societies from South-East Asia westward through Afghanistan to Lebanon and North Africa, may become active in the Intifada. Unless peace prevails, there will be a war that knows no territorial or national boundaries. It will be a war of attrition that seeks to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of nation-states by dissolving them into their components.

The sole triumphant residue of this war will be fundamentalist Islamic, Christian and Jewish. The Gulf, Palestine, Lebanon — these are only the flash points. The fanatical war, if unchecked and uncontained, could extend from Cairo to Islamabad and beyond. We would then witness the ethnic Lebanonisation of our region.

Peace in the Middle East will remain elusive as long as Israel denies the existence of the principal aggrieved party in the dispute — the Palestinian people. Successive Israeli prime ministers have tried to deal with the Palestinian question through third parties. For several years Israel toyed with the "Jordanian option." Egypt seems its current surrogate.

But it is neither Jordan's nor Egypt's responsibility to participate in this subterfuge. Nor should they, since it would signify their acquiescence to the denial of the Palestinians' fundamental

right to national self-determination.

Peace presumes that the other party undergoes a comparable transformation of attitudes, values and outlook. This is not the case in the Middle East. Israel, under Yitzhak Shamir, seems intent on squandering its opportunity by refusing to accept the exchange of land for peace — the only acceptable basis for a just and lasting settlement — as embodied in United Nations resolutions 242 and 338. These resolutions call for the withdrawal of foreign presences from the occupied territories, and also offer implicit recognition of Israel's sovereign existence.

Israel, meanwhile, has been energetically attempting to frustrate its own proposal for elections in the occupied territories. Its government's objection centres on the emotive question of Palestinian representation.

With Israel continually denying the right of the Palestine Liberation Organisation to represent the Palestinian people, the real purpose of the Israeli elections becomes only too clear: to drive a wedge between the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and their acknowledged and recognised leaders in the PLO.

To lift the situation out of this current quagmire, the region requires economic and political initiatives that hold the promise of working. But everyone seems obsessed with procedural matters. The Middle East situation has become a minuet.

Jordan's leadership has always believed that for the peace process to be successful, both Israel and the PLO must offer their respective peoples practical options. Jordan is committed to a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The most appropriate vehicle for this outcome is an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

The resolution of the Palestine question can only be achieved in partnership, not by force of arms or by compelling immigrants to settle on occupied land. We cannot afford to wait until the Arabs and Israelis compromise themselves to the negotiating table. They must be induced to talk — and talk now.

The formulation of moderate policies and practical approaches, based on an Arab consensus, has been a Jordanian national objective towards which King Hussein, has constantly worked. The time has come for our Western friends — and indeed well-wishers everywhere — to more fully recognise Jordan's continuing efforts to promote peace and stability in the Middle East.

In the belief that a drastic jolt was needed for the peace process



to become viable again, King Hussein embarked in July 1988, on a fresh course to renew Palestinian responsibility for the liberation of its own homeland by severing all administrative and legal links with the Israeli-occupied West Bank. This decision defined Palestinians as distinct from Jordanians and other Arabs, and positioned them to secure, by negotiation, their national rights.

Regrettably, Israel hasn't chosen to join in the spirit of accommodation. It has chosen instead to distract attention from the issue of peace. This time it has gathered all its resources to welcome a new wave of emigration.

This massive emigration provides a powerful case for Israeli expansionists to keep the occupied territories for settlement of new immigrants. Not only will it exact a price by threatening all peace initiatives; the economic cost to Israel is staggering. The Shamir government has asked the

United States for at least \$300 million to help pay for the settlement of Soviet newcomers in Israel.

The chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel estimates that 750,000 immigrants will arrive in Israel during the next five to six years. Already, more than 360,000 Soviet Jews have been invited to settle in Israel; the Israeli consulate in Moscow is issuing 200 visas a day to Jewish applicants.

The numbers are truly stunning: Between 1980 and 1988, only 15,752 Jews arrived in Israel from the Soviet Union. But when the Soviets relaxed their emigration rules, the flood began. In the first three months of this year, more than 17,000 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel. Recently, 1,000 Jews landed in Tel Aviv in one day. This huge migration could easily change the face of the Jewish state, whose current population is just 4.4 million. Jordan has also advocated

greater regional and interregional economic cooperation. This would promote political stability and also enhance the peace constituency in the Arab World.

Potential building blocks for this wider cooperation can be found in the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Maghreb states. The oil resources and revenues of Gulf council members continue to be major factors in the economic growth of the region.

Another building block is a relatively new group known as the Arab Cooperation Council, which consists of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen. Our idea is to think in practical terms about such common concerns as water, energy, transportation and telecommunications.

To safeguard against a breakdown of peace process, proposals that accommodate both the political requirements of the Palestinians and the resettlement of Soviet Jews must be designed.

The United States, the Soviet Union, Europe and other parties to the dispute, should combine their expertise, wisdom and influence to chart a fresh course for peace, economic development and regional integration in the Middle East. Since the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories violate international law, the United States and Europe should tie their aid for the immigration and resettlement of Soviet Jews in the country to Israel's freezing all settlement activity in the territories. They can also do much to ameliorate this difficult situation by increasing their annual immigration quotas for Soviet Jews.

For our part, Jordan has called for an Arab summit to formulate a peace strategy that would safeguard the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and the security and stability of the Arab regional order.

It is clear that the present climate in international relations is conducive to the convening of an international peace conference under the auspices of the U.N. Security Council. This conference would be an appropriate forum in which to deal with the problem once other methods have been exhausted. Whatever happens, the world should not simply wait until the Arabs and the Israelis are ready to make suitable compromises. They must be induced to do so.

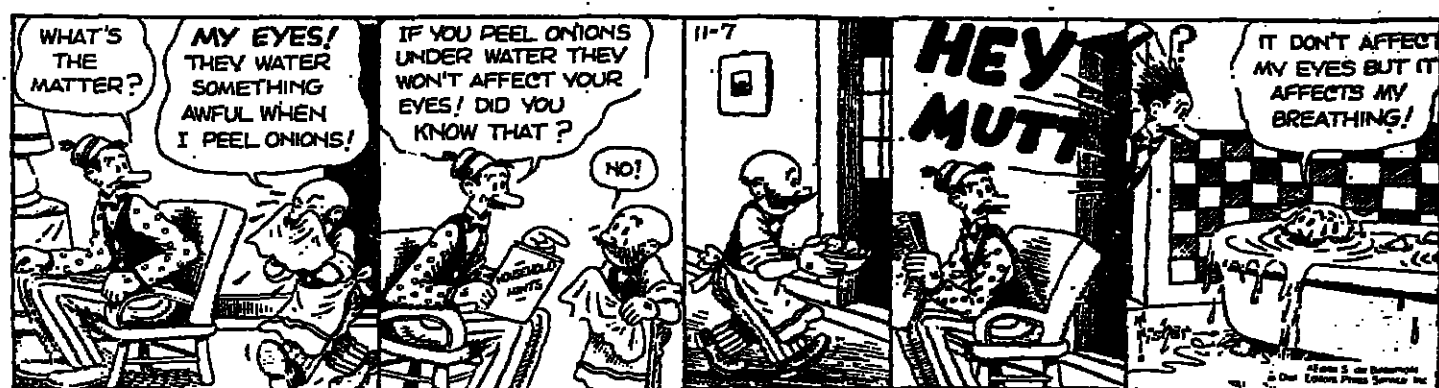
A settlement of the Palestinian question will expel the threat of war and of communal strife from the Middle East political arena. The two superpowers would take a more direct role in resolving the regional conflict, through the United Nations machinery, without fear or prejudice to their respective positions or interests in the region.

Israeli expansionism will only fuel and nurture the Palestinian uprising. This is much like having a party in a small flat, and expecting your neighbours to move when your guest list grows too large.

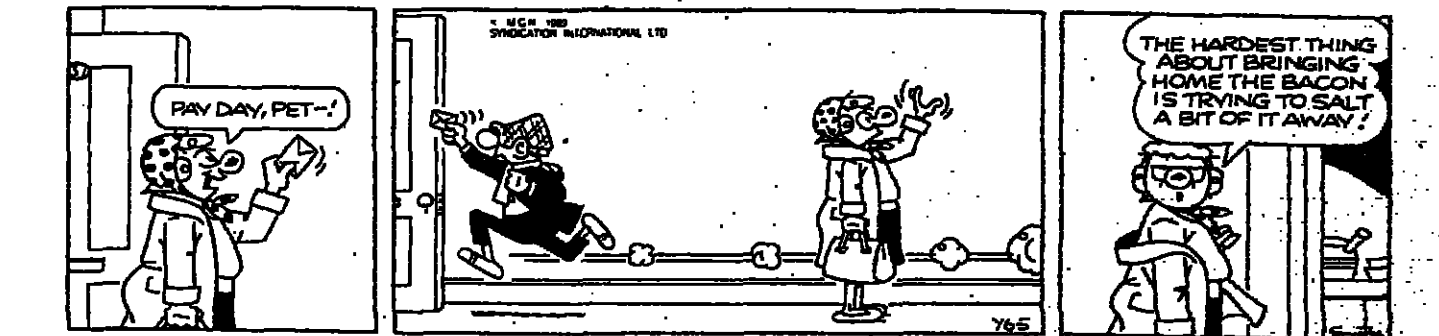
Israel's identity as a haven for the oppressed and persecuted is reinforced by its open arms to the Soviet Jews. This allows Israel once again to claim a moral high ground that was disintegrating into quicksand because of the cynical way in which it treated their own oppressed and persecuted — the Palestinians.

We hold out both a challenge and an olive branch to the Israelis. Will they seize the opportunity for peace?

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.



'Little Queens' live on at an old French mill

"That marvelous device which enables some to go shopping and others to win races" — Robert Chapatte, television sports commentator.

By Philippe Chevalier

THIS MUSEUM is unique in the world. It houses 200 models of astonishing bicycles in an old mill in Maule, 42 kilometres west of Paris. From room to room, one relives the history of this strange machine which an admirer, a poet no doubt, named the "little queen".

The museum presents the whole gamut of bicycles from the venerable machine from the early 19th century to the collapsible bicycles used by the army in the First World War, and including dozens of prototypes and unique home-made models.

The bicycle museum "Musée de Vélopede" is the work of an ardent collector, Gérard Buisson, a window-dresser by trade. However, contrary to what one might expect, his idea of happiness is not to be astride a bike. He does not enjoy that at all. What fills him with delight is to discover an unusual model at the back of a shed or in an auction.

"It came to me about thirty years ago. A client had asked me to find an old 'Big Bi' bicycle at a flea market to decorate his shop window with. I found the machine so beautiful that, instead of selling it off after I had finished with it, as I do with other objects in my job, I kept it. That's how my collection began," says Gérard Buisson.

To begin with, he used to store his treasures in his cellar. When it became full, he rented a garage, and then two garages, and then three and then five. They were all filled right up to the ceiling when he was finally able to make his dream come true in the 60s and buy an old mill: whose paddle-wheel still dips into the green waters of the mauldre, so, as to display his machines there.

His oldest bike is the "Draisienne". It serves as a reminder that the bicycle was born of man's desire to no longer have to rely on animal power. This wooden machine, decorated with a horse's head, was thought up by the German baron Charles De Drais. It had been presented in the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris on 5th April 1818 and had a mobile front wheel, which was a decisive improvement on the "celérité" from the previous

century (*). The year 1855 brought the "Michaux". Iron had replaced the wood, and, above all, the front wheel had pedals and the first brake system. "Cycling" was coming into being. Michaux, nicknamed "Papa Pedal", handed over to the Paris mechanic Sergeant who invented the transmission chain (1865). Three years later, Meyer, another French mechanic, adapted the pedals, no longer on the wheel, but in the middle of the frame. That same year, a clockmaker from the centre of France, Joseph Meunier, had the idea of the first free wheel.

All this is presented in the Maule bicycle museum. It is a heroic epic which, with the funny, the stunning, the weird, and the unusual, shows the evolution of the "little queen". Together with the "Big Bi" with its two-metre wheel, there is a sextuplet, which was used for training six racing-cyclists in 1895, two-seater tricycles, multi-cycles with foot-pushers, handies, levers, cogwheel mechanisms, shafts, springs, and a bike carved out entirely by knife from boxwood by an Auvergne cowhand ... and it works!

One can see early boneshakers gradually turning into today's high-precision instruments, elegant and thoroughly bred with their gleaming enamel, the filigree garland of their chain, the sparkling, nickel-coated spokes of their wheels, their prettily shaped saddles, and their gracefully curved handlebars which have replaced the rudimentary steers of yesteryear.

And bicycle accessories have not been forgotten either. An incongruous assembly of warning bells, bizarre bicycle pumps and antique mirrors ... And even whips and pistols with which our grandfather cyclists drove away dogs barking in their wheels — L'Actualité en France.

(*) The "celérité" was launched in the Palais Royal in Paris in 1790. It was thought up by a certain De Sivrac and consisted of a wooden beam with small wheels at either end. The rider sat astride it and moved forward by making big strides along the road.

Egyptian settlers reclaim desert

By Mercedes Sayagues

Layla Mohammad's blue-green eyes filled with tears when she first saw the village that would be her new home. The drab rows of identical, one-story cement houses, tightly packed in the middle of the empty desert; the sandy, treeless space nominally declared main square; and the flat, uncultivated land stretching away as far as she could see.

She had not wanted to come — it was her husband's idea. As the meagre salary of a state employee in a small town in the Nile Delta could not cover the family needs, he applied for a plot of land through Egypt's desert reclamation project. The Government levels the land, provides irrigation and builds villages. Then the settlers move in and the desert moves out — slowly.

This is no overnight miracle. It takes at least four years before a farm of five to six feddans (one feddan equals half a hectare) can support a family with subsistence food and an income. Repayment of the house and land is spread out over 30 years without interest, with a three-year grace period.

Layla first rejected the idea. "My husband, a labourer?" she protested. "And we are to live in the desert?" She argued and pleaded, but when her husband threatened to go by himself, Layla gave in. She packed their two small children and in the spring of 1987 the family arrived by truck at the brand new settlement of Tawfik Al Hakim, in Nubariya, 50 kilometres south of Alexandria.

It was hot, dry and dusty. Layla was miserable. She wept every night for two weeks. "Then," she

says, "one day I decided I couldn't weep all my life." She became acquainted with other women in the settlement, joined the women's club, and now helps to run its daycare centre.

The Mohammad family had "a real hard time," says Layla. The farm takes most of her husband's time, nine to 10 hours a day. She misses her family who remained in their hometown, eight hours away by bus. Would she recommend becoming a settler in the desert to her friends?

Layla pauses, then nods. "I wouldn't lie and say it's easy," she says smiling. "I would say that now we are land owners, we have our own house, chickens, rabbits and a cow. It's a completely new way of life."

Nadia Abdul Macty, a plump 14-year-old girl helping in the daycare centre, chips into the conversation. "There is a school, a health clinic and a youth club," she says. "That was unheard of in the old village."

Warming up to private investors

For tens of thousands of Egyptian landless farmers, unemployed graduates and low-level Government employees, the new life in the desert brings hope of a better future. For the country, trapped between massive unemployment, an exploding population of 53 million and no remaining arable land, settling the desert is one solution.

"Land reclamation is a top national priority," says Dr. Youssef Wali, Egypt's Minister of Agriculture and Deputy prime Minister. In 1989 alone, the authorities expect to reclaim and cultivate 85,000 hectares in the Delta, North Sinai and in Upper

Egypt.

Land reclamation does not come cheap. Cement-lined canals to bring water from the Nile, pumping stations, drainage networks, roads, electricity, potable water, sanitation — just the basic infrastructure works — average U.S. \$790 per feddan. The villages spring up on the sandy soil — and their houses, schools, mosques, health clinics, administrative offices, shops and marketing cooperatives add up to a hefty bill. The cheap prices settlers pay mean the Government recovers only half of the land reclamation costs, over many years and without interest. Is it worth it?

"It's our only option," says Dr. Adel El-Beltagy, Under-Secretary for Land Reclamation at the Ministry of Agriculture. "We have to increase food production, provide jobs to ensure sociopolitical stability and spread the population outside the congested Delta. Luckily we are blessed with land to expand."

Increasingly, the Government is shifting its strategy to let the private sector bear the costs of land reclamation. "We welcome individual investors and multinational companies," Dr. Youssef Wali told the WFP Journal.

In the current five-year plan to reclaim 315,000 hectares, one-quarter of the land will be allocated to landless farmers and unemployed graduates at cheap rates. The rest will be sold to private investors at market prices ranging between US\$850 and US\$1,700 for half a hectare.

The World Food Programme is helping in this huge, complex and expensive effort. Since 1980, the Programme has delivered food aid worth US\$48 million to help some 51,000 settlers and their families during their first three to four years. "After the farms start producing enough for consumption and sale, the settlers are on their own," says Farid Oufi, the former WFP Director of Operations in Egypt. "We don't want them to become dependent on food aid."

The beneficiaries are given wheat, canned meat, cheese or fish, vegetable oil, and sugar and salt. The Government contributes 25 per cent of the local value of the food to a fund which is used to finance community development activities: village cooperatives, animal husbandry, training for women and improved housing. Since a rural family spends up to 65 per cent of its income on food, the savings are considerable.

"In the past, WFP was the only international agency helping us," says Dr. El-Beltagy. "Bilateral donors shied away during Nasser's time. There was little help for that model of development in Africa and Latin America. But WFP has always been at the heart of our land reclamation projects."

Little fertile land

Egypt desperately needs to increase its food production. In the 1970s, the country exported agricultural produce. Today, it imports US\$4,000 million worth of food every year — about 40 per cent of its total imports.

The agricultural sector has not kept pace with population growth: 1.3 million babies are



Settlers inspect one of the new houses. Whole villages have sprung up where once there was nothing.



A settler family work together to harvest their first crop of water melons.

born every year, adding to Egypt's already crowded situation. The population density, of nearly 2,000 people per square kilometre in the narrow strips of fertile land along the River Nile, is one of the highest in the world — teeming millions cluster in the sprawling slums of Cairo and Alexandria and in the continuous string of villages stretching between major cities.

Seen from the air or on coloured map, Egypt pivots around a winding green ribbon — the Nile — thin as it enters from Sudan, bloated at the Aswan Dam, branching out as it reaches the Mediterranean. To the left and right, vast expanses of wavy, yellow desert.

Less than 10 per cent of the land is fertile and even this small portion shrinks every year, lost to urban encroachment. To halt this trend, the Government uses drastic measures, sending in bulldozers when unauthorized urban development eats up good agricultural land. It has also banned brickmaking with the famous Egyptian red clay because it re-

moves precious topsoil. Instead industries and builders must use concrete.

If agricultural land is scarce, Egypt will create it. Six million hectares of desert are waiting to be developed. In the last 10 years, 1.6 million hectares have been reclaimed against losses not exceeding 300,000 hectares. So far the authorities sound optimistic: the projects work well, the people are enthusiastic. More than 100,000 hopeful applicants showed up for 5,000 openings recently. Many are the children of former settlers who have seen their parents succeed. For the small percentage of applicants who are accepted after careful screening and personal interviews, the challenge begins.

Mr. El Hussein, a former low-level Government employee earning 120 Egyptian pounds a month, arrived at Village 11 in 1987. He grows corn, tomatoes and watermelons on his farm, and has chickens, vegetables and blooming white and purple flowers in his well-tended garden. Paper cutouts of flowers decorate

the walls of his one-room house, sparsely furnished and neatly kept. He says he learned to live alone in the army, to cook from women neighbours and to farm with the extension workers. "The hardest part is the lack of cash and getting acquainted with the area," he says.

Three blocks down the street lives Hanaa Abdul Wahab, 24. In the garden, under the cool shade of fruit trees, she keeps chickens, rabbits and pigeons, her main sources of income.

Ms. Wahab and Mr. El Hussein are both active in the community development association that plans to beautify the village by planting trees and improving cleanliness. "Please return next year and you will see how pretty it will look," they tell a visitor. "You should come sooner for the party," says a neighbour, pointedly, while the two grin shyly. It turns out that they plan to get married at the end of 1989. For the settlers, developing the desert opens a whole new way of life.... WFP Journal



Irrigation is the key to transforming once desert land into fertile farmland.

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S. Arabia, Algeria hail OPEC accord

Nigeria announces big oil output cut

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria announced Tuesday a big cut in its oil output in line with moves by other Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) states to support prices, which have fallen by up to 25 per cent this year.

The amount that Nigeria was supposed to be making in excess of its quota was 140,000 barrels per day (bpd). This is the amount by which we intend to cut down," OPEC Minister Jibril Aminu said.

The 13 members of OPEC decided at an emergency meeting in Geneva last week to cut output by 1.445 million bpd to try and mop up an oil surplus seen as responsible for the sharp fall in prices.

Nigeria's output was estimated at 1.75 million bpd in April against an allocated quota of 1.611 million.

With total group output 1.5 to two million bpd above its 22 million bpd ceiling, set last November, prices for the actively traded Brent oil crashed below \$16 a barrel last month from as high as \$20 in January.

OPEC's target price for a basket of its crudes is \$18.

Aminu said prices had failed to recover since the meeting because of manipulation by speculators, analysts and traders who suggested that OPEC would not be able to stick to its accord.

Statements from member governments since the meeting showed their commitment to significant cuts which would be closely monitored, he said.

"We in Nigeria, even before going for the meeting, had already given orders that production be cut down in order to reflect our quota more accurately," Aminu said.

Industry sources confirmed receiving instructions to make cuts implying a total reduction of at least 100,000 bpd from April production levels.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, Monday welcomed the OPEC's agreement and said it was an essential factor to save oil prices from collapse.

A statement issued by the Saudi cabinet after a meeting chaired by King Fahd said it was "deeply satisfied with the successful results reached Thursday."

OPEC pledged to voluntary cut output by about six per cent to around 22 million bpd for the May-July period to boost oil prices.

"These results are a good positive step on the right path to stop the deterioration in the petroleum market during the past period," said the statement, carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

SPA, received in Cyprus, said the agreement should be "a basic factor to save the situation and restore stability to the petroleum markets."

The statement, however, urged all member states to adhere to the new levels of production as agreed "by all" in the resolution.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer told Reuters Friday he had instructed operating

companies to immediately cut output, saying the kingdom had not produced a single barrel above its OPEC quota of 5.38 million.

He also said he had no reason to believe that other producers will not keep their pledges to do likewise.

The agreement, reached after three days of intensive consultations, would shave 1.445 million barrels off an estimated OPEC overall production of 23.5 million bpd to prop up prices which have plunged about 25 per cent since January.

But the authoritative Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday that it appeared "reasonably solid" that the real output cut would be in the range of between 800,000 and a million bpd.

"The rest lies in a grey area which does not inspire a great deal of confidence," the Nicosia-based Newsletter said.

MEES said that while it believed Saudi Arabia's declared return to the quota, "question marks" still hovered on the degree of compliance by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Algeria, which currently presides over OPEC, also Geneva accord and an oil official predicted they would soon boost world prices.

It also instructed its state hydrocarbons group Sonatrach to cut output immediately by 20,000 bpd to 760,000 bpd in line with the cut agreed last Thursday.

IMF seals \$60b deal for East Europe, Third World

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Tuesday put its seal of approval on a \$60-billion deal to help out the fledgling democracies of Eastern Europe and the needy of the Third World.

In a communique issued after marathon talks, the IMF said it had won the support of its 152 member states to increase its capital base by 50 per cent.

Both rich and poor nations made compromises in reaching the pact, that came after two years of stop-start and sometimes bitter negotiations.

Industrial nations cleared the way for the accord Sunday by setting aside their internal squabbles over their voting power at the fund.

The new shape of the fund for the 1990s sets the United States remaining in the top spot, but with Japan moving up from fifth place to joint second with West Germany in recognition of Tokyo's growing economic might.

While the negotiations have been complex and sometimes numbingly technical, their resolution will provide the IMF with financing to deal with the festering \$1.3-trillion debt crisis and the emergence of Eastern Europe as a market-based economy over the next few years.

At the insistence of the United States, the IMF's interim committee linked the increase in member nations' capital contributions, called quotas, with a plan to pressure 11 poor countries that are \$4 billion behind on their loan payments.

Debtors countries had opposed the link, but U.S. officials believed it was crucial to getting approval for the quota increase from Congress, where many members are sceptical of foreign aid.

In exchange for the link, the United States agreed to begin consideration of a quota hike in 1993, two years earlier than it sought originally.

"Despite reservations that a number of members had on certain individual elements of the package, we recognise this was a consensus...everybody had to give in order to achieve a compromise," said Canadian Finance Minister Michael H. Wilson, chairman of the 22-member interim committee.

The quota change, which must be approved before the end of 1991 by nations representing 85 per cent of the fund's voting power, will raise the fund's resources to \$180 billion from the current \$120 billion.

"What you see... is a package with features that are designed to strengthen the role of the International Monetary Fund as the central pillar of the international financial system," Wilson said.

The panel reached agreement on the package Monday night after debating it most of the day in private sessions. It announced the pact in a communique released Tuesday morning.

The plan had received an important boost Sunday with the endorsement by the group of seven major industrial nations: the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy.

The plan aimed at delinquent countries employs a carrot-and-stick approach.

Delinquent countries that agree to economic reforms will be eligible for money from a special fund within the IMF. However, nations in arrears could lose their voting rights. Also, the agency could sell three million ounces of gold, roughly equivalent to the members' original contributions, to meet the obligations of defaulting debtors.

The 11 nations in arrears are Sudan, Zambia, Peru, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guyana, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Cambodia, Vietnam and Panama.

Bush must decide on MFN status for China

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. President George Bush, severely criticised for his mild treatment of China, must soon decide whether to extend "most favoured nation" (MFN) trading status for the government that carried out the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Bush must decide by June 3 whether to ask congress to revoke MFN for China, a move officials say will wreak havoc in bilateral trade worth around \$18 billion a year. Under MFN, nations can export to the United States at preferential tariff rates. Revoking it could mean tariffs doubling.

Officials say Bush has so far given no indication of which way he is leaning. Last week, the president said he was disappointed at Peking's record on improving human rights.

"Overall, I'm disappointed. And yet, preserving a relationship with the People's Republic of China in the broad global context is important. So I have no apologies. I have no feeling that I took the wrong path," Bush said.

Some analysts interpreted the statement to mean that Bush intended to defy congressional and public opinion by retaining MFN, in which case he can expect a tough, politically damaging battle in the runup to congressional elections this fall.

"This remarks were so mild it's hard to imagine he does not intend retaining MFN but he's probably holding back on a decision to see what happens at the beginning of June in China," said Paul Kreisberg, an analyst with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Ironically, Bush's decision will fall off the anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre when Chinese troops crushed a pro-democracy movement, killing hundreds of unarmed civilians.

Bush's response was to send a high-level secret delegation led by National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft to Peking a month after the massacre.

He despatched Scowcroft to China a second time last December as part of his policy of maintaining ties with the government and coaxing it to end its crackdown but the sight of Scowcroft exchanging toasts with Chinese leaders set off a public outcry.

A State Department official said there had been little visible payoff from the visits.

"It was the president's hope that the Chinese would take enough steps to help rebuild a base of support in the United States for a strong relationship. But nothing has happened since mid-January," he said.

Since then, U.S.-Chinese relations have stagnated. But the MFN decision threatens to upset the equilibrium.

Losing MFN status would devastate Chinese exports to the United States, worth some \$12 billion last year, and most likely trigger swift retaliation from Peking.

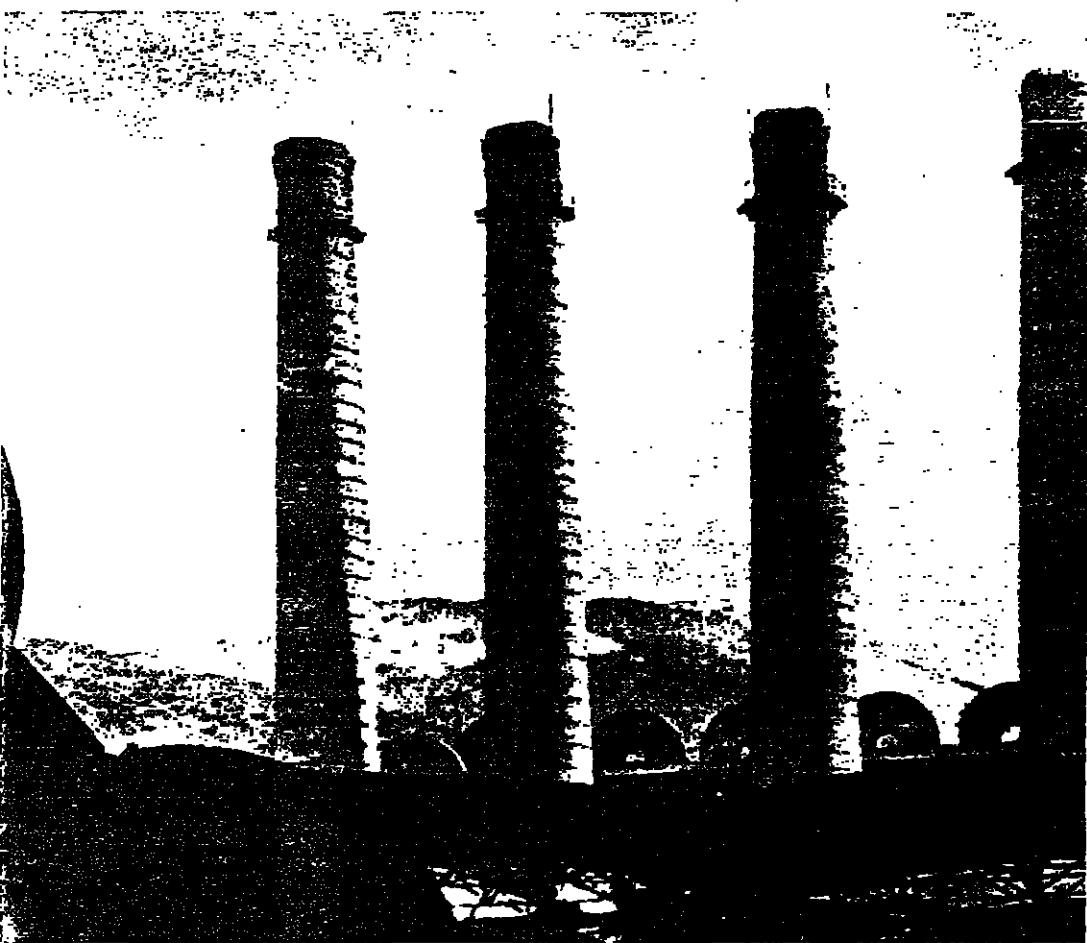
United States, worth some \$12 billion last year, and most likely trigger swift retaliation from Peking.

It would price Chinese textiles and toys out of our market and hit Hong Kong, through which most of these exports are routed," the official said.

But China could also hurt the United States. It was the largest single purchaser of U.S. wheat last year, buying \$1 billion in its total imports of \$6 billion.

Kreisberg said Democrats in Congress might seek to delay a showdown on the issue until the summer to embarrass Bush closer to the congressional elections.

"They feel they can't lose on this issue," Public sentiment is running against China. Even if Bush overrides a congressional decision, he would have to browbeat Republicans to get his way and make them look bad," he said.



Many governments and industries in Eastern Europe have for a long time ignored anti-pollution standards common in the West. The result is an environmental disaster which could cost up to \$25 billion to clean up (file photo)

Eastern Europe faces environment nightmare

WASHINGTON (R) — As the economies of Eastern Europe begin the process of going from Marxist to market-based, they are facing an environmental nightmare that could cost as much as \$25 billion to clean up.

As it now stands, in large parts of the region, potatoes cannot be grown because the ground is so polluted that they would be unsafe to eat.

Children in parts of Poland carry cancer-causing agents in their bodies, at levels which some experts believe are the highest in the world.

In many parts of the region, birth defects are reportedly so rampant that World Bank officials find it hard to believe that their reported numbers can possibly be accurate.

The pollution is not of the sort that the developed countries face as consumers go wastefully about the business of day to day life.

Car ownership is not widespread in Eastern Europe, and few people in Poland, Hungary, Romania, or Yugoslavia would understand the woes that accompany a "throw away" society such as the United States, where landfills are overflowing.

The region's pollution is caused mainly by its industry and in the generation of power.

Officials have estimated that a cleanup of Eastern Europe

could cost an awesome \$25 billion — an astronomical expense that countries of the region have little chance of mobilising.

These countries abound with laws and regulations to control emissions and waste water discharge, but in the past they have been mainly ignored as governments attempted to cope with other economic problems.

"You had a situation where the state was both the polluter and environmental regulator," said Thierry Baudon, a World Bank environmental official.

Now this is changing as the new leadership of Eastern Europe, many with backgrounds in environmental protest, are taking over the reins of power.

While this is basically seen as a very positive development by environmentalists, it does pose some problems that the World Bank is watching closely.

Baudon, for instance, is worried that the new leadership, because of past political ties to the "green" movement, will be under pressure to bankroll highly visible projects that are ill-conceived and expensive.

Moreover, World Bank officials believe that the governments are being pressed by outside entrepreneurs to buy equipment without giving proper thought to the direction restructuring may be moving.

They note, for instance, that

under the economic restructuring that will be taking place, some of the most wasteful industrial operations will be closed.

This situation is occupying economic as well as environmental experts as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank hold their spring meetings to discuss global economic conditions.

Both institutions believe that any economic restructuring of the region must include environmental cleanup and new, cleaner ways of making products, mining coal and producing energy.

The World Bank position is that countries should direct their efforts at cleaning up environmental problems that directly affect human health.

Moreover, experts believe that without a monitoring system and institutions to make certain rules are being followed there would not be "much point in investing in anything" as one official put it.

However, the bank has been telling countries that it must concentrate on incentives rather than on setting regulations to change pollution behaviour.

"If you make it expensive to pollute and financially attractive to clean up you get the kind of behaviour you want without having to regulate it," said one official.

ECONOMIC NEWS IN BRIEF

N. Yemen considering gas grid

SANAA (R) — North Yemen is studying plans to build a billion-dollar pipeline to generate power in its main cities by tapping its large gas reserves, oil industry sources said Tuesday. They said a Dutch firm had prepared an initial feasibility study for the project which would involve spending up to \$1.2 billion to lay a line from central oil-producing fields to all major population centres. The line would be 61 to 66 kilometres in diameter. Oil and Minerals Minister Ahmad Al Muhani said Saturday the country's gas reserves were 8.3 trillion cubic feet, compared with recoverable crude reserves of 500 million barrels.

EI Al reports \$24.2m net profit

TEL AVIV (R) — El Al Israel airlines reported Tuesday a net profit of \$24.2 million for 1989, its fourth consecutive year in the black. The profit marked a 28.7 per cent jump from El Al's 1988 earnings of \$18.8 million. Revenues rose by 7.2 per cent to 713.6 million from 665.3 million in 1988. El Al said it carried 1,741,000 passengers last year, 12 per cent more than in 1988 when tourism to Israel fell sharply in the early months of the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories. El Al's passengers load factor was 75.9 per cent last year, compared to 73 per cent in 1988.

Algeria, UAE form joint company

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria, increasingly keen to attract foreign capital to shore up its ailing economy, will form a joint investment company with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Algerian news agency APS said Tuesday. APS said an accord had been reached after talks in Abu Dhabi between Algerian Economy Minister Ghazi Hedoud and his UAE counterpart Saif Al Jarwar.

Israeli exchange suspends trading

TEL AVIV (R) — The Tel Aviv stock exchange suspended trading in shares of oil exploration companies Tuesday after Israel's Inc reported it may have struck commercial quantities of gas at an offshore field. An exchange spokeswoman said six companies' shares were suspended. Israel's Inc had notified the stock exchange of the potential find and said it would clarify the potential within a few days, the spokeswoman said. Shares of oil-drilling firms leapt by up to eight per cent after the mass-circulation Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper published a report that Israel's Inc might have struck oil at the Yam-2 drilling site off the Tel Aviv coast.

Poles rush to buy into biggest privatisation

WARSAW (R) — Dozens of people gathered outside the headquarters of a leading Polish foreign trade company Tuesday to buy a piece of Poland's biggest privatisation.

The state-owned Universal company opened a public subscription Monday of almost 10 million shares, worth 98.5 billion zloties (\$10.5 million) — the largest privatisation since the government launched market-oriented economic reforms at the start of the year.

"We wanted to go private in order to become more reliable for our Western clients," said Tomasz Lukaszewicz, Universal's development manager. "We also need a major increase in our capital in line with the quick development of the company."

The privatisation is being handled by BIG S.A., a small bank which earlier this year became the first state-owned financial institution in Poland to go private.

Krzysztof Wantola, a BIG director, said there was huge interest in the offer.

The state treasury currently owns 51 per cent of Universal with the rest held by 72 state enterprises. After privatisation, state companies will retain ownership of up to a third of the company while foreign investors will be allowed up to 30 per cent of the public subscription.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY MAY 9, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This Full Moon, well aspected day brings you all kinds of chances for you to see more clearly your own duties and obligations in a very different and unusual light.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Much running around could be very ineffective so make sure you have a definite plan whereby you pace today's activities and rely upon a good friend for help.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You need to put aside setting some obligations until you have discussed it in a business-like manner with an influential person who is expert in this line.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) There are many opportunities facing you but you have to be open-minded and do something about them if you are to make them a part of your benefits.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You like to have a well rounded awareness of your potential and then the ability to make them operate in your favor which you can do easily today.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Go along with the suggestions of a modern thinking friend just how you can best gain more rapport with these of a worldly frame of thinking.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Show whomever has the power to support your projects that you are aware of current formulas and gadgets for making your activities more efficient.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Today you have the inspiration

to gain aspirations and especially if you keep your attention focused upon ideas recently found to be proven.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Business experts as well as members of your own class are the right persons to get to give you support in an undertaking of importance to you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you can locate up to date ways to expand your own interests you will also be able to include some usual companions who can bring you an even greater success.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Toning up your property and possessions not only makes them more valuable but also gives you more pleasure and comfort around your dwelling.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have some progressive plans now how to best put your special aptitudes before others as they put off but do so right away and gain.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is an unusually good time for you to have a conference with family members about what you can do to make the future of you all more happy, productive.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he commands an unusually magnetic personality that is immediately perceptible to most individuals who will want to back in their company and give this child almost anything they want as a result of this personal attraction.

How this child uses these remarkable attributes and qualities will depend on the early help they receive.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

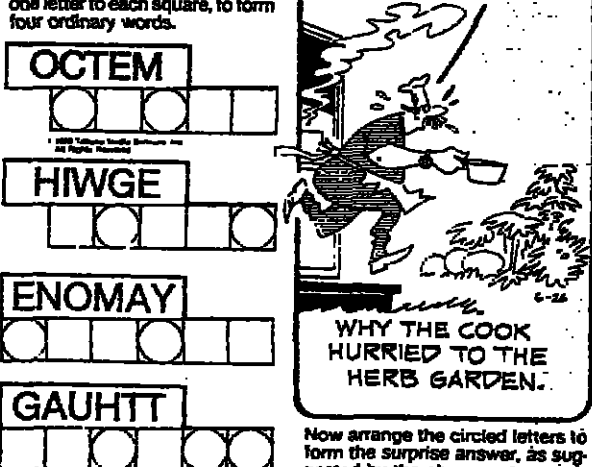


"We never had kids. I was afraid they'd end up being like Stanley."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



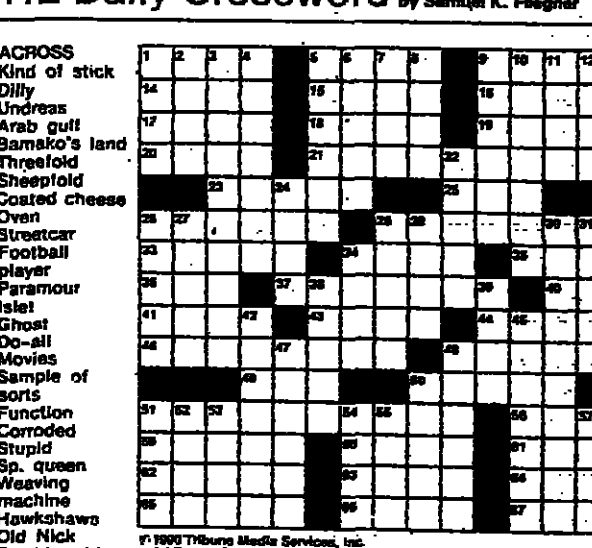
Answer: HE HADN'T "COOKED"

Saturday's Jumbles: BROOD MIRTH OUTLAW TRICKY

Answer: What they called the hardware store's cat — THE "TOOL KIT"

THE Daily Crossword

by Samuel K. Flegner



ACROSS

1 Kind of stick
5 Dilly
9 Underas
14 Arab gulf
15 Bamako's land
16 Thagard
17 Sheepfold
18 Coated cheese
19 Ovan
20 Streator
21 Football player
23 Parmour
25 Islet
26 Ghost
28 Do-all
33 Movies
34 Sample of sorts
35 Function
36 Corroded
37 Stupid
40 Sp. queen
41 Weaving machine
43 Hawkshaw
44 Old Nick
46 Provide with footnotes
48 Mark of distinction
49 Kinsman
50 Gravy
51 O.E. 2 e.g.
52 Fanatic
53 Scold violently
54 Missile holder
55 Unanimous
56 — diht
58 Arthurian lady
59 Troglodyte
60 Validator
61 Soaks flax

DOWN

1 Agreement
2 Aroma
3 Find out
4 Room for — (Grant film)
5 Spanish or Fiestan
6 Lowest point
7 Panache
8 Hoarfrost
9 — of Gibraltar
10 Farm vehicle
11 Skerret's milieu
12 "Pinto" playwright
13 — "Cyril"
14 Part of BLT
15 Passport endorsement
16 La — Milan
17 Mountaineer's sphe
18 Dealer in stolen goods
19 Author Kingley
20 Condemn
21 Arm bones
22 Denoted
23 Eat with care
24 Play for time
25 Birthright
26 Perfection
27 Glimmer
28 deposit
29 Plaintiff
30 — is the Night
31 Black to poets
32 Rainbow
33 Neck part
34 Touched
35 Perception
36 Nuncupative
37 — nine-tails
38 Bands the head

Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers:

ARAB GULF, BAMAKO, BROOD, MIRTH, OUTLAW, TRICKY, THE TOOL KIT

Ben Salim to take part in Jordan Rally

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Middle East rally champion Mohammad Ben Salim will take part in Jordan's international rally, which will be held May 16 and 17.

Ben Salim has won Jordan's rally three times in 1984, 1987 and 1988. However, in 1989 he could not take part in the rally because the rally was cancelled that year.

After sustaining a defeat in Cyprus international rally as a result of mechanical faults in his Toyota Celica G.T. 4, which forced him to withdraw from the

rally, Ben Salim is determined now to keep his record in Jordan's rallies.

The champion will drive a Winston Toyota car, now being equipped in Jordan, assisted by Irish national Roman Morgan.

The car's engine has been replaced and so has the gear box. If Ben Salim wins Jordan's rally then he will be champion of the rallies in the Middle East following his victory in the Qatar rally in February which constituted the first part of the two part rally.



Mohammad Ben Salim

Iraq beats Jordan in basketball

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Iraqi team Al Rashid Tuesday defeated host Al Orthodox Club of Jordan 95-77 in a match played as part of the 5th Arab Basketball Championship for men and the 1st championship for ladies. In Tuesday's other matches the Algerian Itihad Al Binaa Club defeated Al Tibigh of Morocco 103-96 and Al Nabuli of Tunis beat Ghaza of Palestine 95-83.

In ladies' games Algerian club Hussein Dai defeated The Orthodox Club 63-49.

Al Kazima basketball team of Kuwait Monday defeated Al Ahli team of Egypt 91-83. Al Rashid also defeated Al Itihad team of Syria in the five-minute extension 92-86.

The two teams drew in the original match time (75-75). Al Orthodox Club Monday defeated the Saudi team Uhud 93-89.

In Wednesday's games, the Algerian club Hussein Dai will meet Al Shurta of Iraq (ladies); Al Ahli of Jordan will play Al Ma'ab of Tunisia (ladies) while Al Kabraba' of Algeria will meet Al Tibigh of Morocco (men).



Orthodox Club player Jabran trying to basket while other players watch in Monday's match against the Saudi team Uhud.

Australian Open struggles for money

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — The Australian Open could lose its grand slam status to tennis tournaments in Sweden, Japan or the United States if it doesn't increase prize money, tournament general manager Jim Reid said Monday.

"We are flat out meeting the current level," Reid said referring to difficulty in raising more funds. "We have to find extra money or risk losing grand slam status."

Reid was reacting to news that two of the other grand slam events, Wimbledon and the French Open, will hike their purses by 22 per cent. The U.S. Open is the fourth grand slam tournament.

Both Wimbledon and the French Open both will offer \$5.75 million in 1991, compared to the \$3 million purse for the 1990 Australian Open. The Australian tournament has difficulty attracting top players because it is played three weeks after Christmas.

"We have to keep pace. We had high hopes of catching up — and had hoped that they would not increase their prize money to the extent of 22 per cent," Reid said. "It's very difficult to main-

tain (our) status. Sweden, Japan and Florida are barking at our heels and have made no secret that they want the fourth leg of the Grand Slam."

The International Tennis Federation in London sanctions the four grand slam events.

He said the Australian tournament organizers were trying to agree to a new prize money figure for 1991.

Would it match the 22 per cent increase in France and England? "We have to be looking at something around that order," Reid said.

He said the only avenues open to increase revenue were increased ticket prices and higher fees for international television rights.

He ruled out the possibility of increased sponsorship, saying the tournament already had an agreement with Ford Australia for 1991.

Jordan Times
Tel. 667171

Perez retains WBC bantamweight title

LOS ANGELES (R) — Mexico's Raul Perez retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) bantamweight championship Monday when he stopped third-ranked contender Gerardo Martinez of the United States in the last seconds of the ninth round.

Perez, making his fifth title defence, knocked Martinez to the canvas with 30 seconds left in the ninth with a flurry of lefts and rights to the challenger's head.

Martinez struggled to his feet,

but the 23-year-old champion knocked him down again. Referee Henry Eliazpuru stopped the scheduled 12-round bout after the second knockdown at two minutes 59 seconds of the ninth round.

Perez, who stands 1.80 metres tall, used his 20 centimetres reach advantage effectively against his shorter opponent and scored throughout the fight with left jabs and rights to the 24-year-old Martinez's head.

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MISSING DOG
For German family in Um Uthaina. Small, long haired, brown dog of Pomeranian race (Spitz type) lost his way home on Wednesday evening.
If you know his whereabouts please contact Tel. 818474 (private) or 689351 (office). Thank you.

FOREIGN MAID NEEDED
Live in and v. good English to work for Jordanian family - good salary.
Pls. call tel. (603394) (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

GOREN BRIDGE
WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HURSH
© 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠1065 ♠KJ1043 ♣762 ♣95
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♦ 3 ♠ 4 ♠
What action do you take?

Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQ762 ♠9652 ♣Void ♣8763
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠
What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠4 ♠AK1052 ♣KJ76 ♣AJ9
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠
What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠965 ♠AK3 ♣QJ93 ♣Q52

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠
What do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q652 ♠9852 ♣7 ♣J943
Partner opens the bidding with a demand bid of two hearts. What do you respond?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q652 ♠9852 ♣7 ♣J943
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠ 5 ♠
What do you bid now?

For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426.

GARAGE SALE FOR ART LOVERS
Piano Kawai, traditional jars and rugs, art works.
On May 10, 11 and 12, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
At Mona Saudi residence, 2nd Circle, behind the Lebanese Embassy - Jabal Amman. Tel. 654320.

WANTED UNFURNISHED FLAT
Norwegian journalist needs 1 or 2-bedroom flat, unfurnished, in Jabal Amman/Shmeisani areas. Telephone, separate central heating.
Pls. call: 673443

WANTED
A dressmaker, preferably a Filipino. Long experience required.
Phone 640204 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155
BATMAN
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HRH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN
The Royal Theatre Company in co-operation with The British Council and Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental in aid of Friends of the Liver Patients Society Presents
BRITISH WEEK Theatre
May 12-17th Dinner & Show
AT HOTEL JORDAN INTER-CONTINENTAL
A NEW MUSICAL BY VANESSA BATROUNI
AT THE R.C.C. EVERY NIGHT AT 7pm. TICKETS 4JDS
May 13 - 16th inclusive
AT HOTEL JORDAN INTER-CONTINENTAL
AT 9:30 PM WITH COMEDIAN CHRIS WHEELER AND "BOUQUET" FEMALE MUSICAL DUO
JD 15,000 PLUS 10% GOV. TAX. PLUS 10% SERVICE CHARGE
BRITISH LADIES OF AMMAN. (MAYFAIR)
ON FRIDAY, MAY 19TH, 11am - 5pm
AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR
OPENING NIGHT AND LAST NIGHT SPECIAL OFFER BRONTE AND DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT
Tickets JD 16,000
ALL PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO 10% GOVERNMENT TAX AND 10% SERVICE CHARGE
Sponsored by

Jordan Medical Aid for Palestinians
MAP Walk
Friday 11/5/1990

Date, time and venue
The walk will start at the Intercontinental Hotel at 8:30 a.m. on Friday 11th May 1990 and will follow the route outlined in the map below. Participants are requested to arrive not later than 8.00. It will end at Kherbat Abu Jaber.

Stations
The Walk will be divided into substages (stations) 2 km. apart. Participants will collect a yellow card at the Intercontinental Hotel and have a new card at each station. The final (11th) station will be at Kherbat Abu Jaber.

How much should one walk
One can walk as he/she wants, but the minimum valid distance is 2 km. i.e. one should get at least the first card.

Food & drinks
Participants with yellow cards will be provided with food and drinks free of charge along the route at every station upon the presentation of the yellow card.

Buses & Shuttles
These will be available during the walk to take the participants back to the Intercontinental Hotel or Kherbat Abu Jaber. An ambulance will be on stand by in case of emergency.

Police supervision
The police have been notified and will be available to ensure the safety of the participants.

Media Coverage
The event will be covered by T.V. Radio and the local newspapers.

Collection of money
After completing the walk, the money pledged by all sponsors on each form, should be brought back to the organising committee not later than 25th of May 1990.

Souk Baladi Friday 11 / 5 / 1990

For Walkers and non Walkers
For the whole Family
Come and spend Friday at "Souk Baladi"
Kherbat Abu Jaber / Al-Yadudah.
From 11:00 a.m to 7:00 p.m.
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Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420
SUZANNE
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144
Hangmen
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571
Happy Eid Al Fitr and Many Happy Returns
Adel Imam... in **Hanafi the Great (Hanafi Al Ubbahah)**
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238
LETHAL WEAPON II
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Talks between Iliescu, protesters break down

BUCHAREST (R) — Talks between Romanian President Ion Iliescu and a delegation from Bucharest's marathon street demonstration broke down shortly after they began Tuesday, members of the delegation said.

Iliescu sat down with representatives of the protesters at 10.30 a.m. in the parliament building, but the delegation walked out a few minutes later when the government side refused to allow the talks to be filmed.

Marian Munteanu, president of the Students' League, one of the four anti-government groups in the delegation, immediately returned to the demonstration in Bucharest's University Square to renew the breakdown to a crowd of about 2,000 people.

The street demonstration has been a source of acute embarrassment for the government in the run-up to Romania's first free elections in more than 50 years and Iliescu had been seeking talks with protest leaders for several days.

Munteanu said the talks could not have gone ahead without the presence of video cameras because the demonstrators engaged in the non-stop protest desired to see evidence of what had transpired.

"Out of respect for your struggle we had to leave the building," he said.

A spokesman for Iliescu later told reporters that the presence of cameras was not necessary because arrangements had been made to take shorthand notes of the proceedings.

The final text of the talks would have been given to both sides for signatures if they could agree on conditions for the talks.

The protest delegation had carried several specific demands into the talks with Iliescu, a former Communist official who was sacked by Dictator Nicolae Ceausescu 15 years ago.

Since one of the demands was to ban former Communist officials from holding public office, it had been thought unlikely that the talks stood much chance of success.

Munteanu urged demonstrators to remain in the square until their demands had been met.

To loud applause he said: "It is necessary for the demonstration

to continue in order to affirm the principles of democracy. Nothing can stop the fight for truth and freedom."

The crowd repeatedly chanted "down with Communism."

The demonstration began on April 22 and has blocked one of Bucharest's main thoroughfares to all but emergency traffic services ever since.

In another development, the National Liberal Party said its presidential candidate, Radu Campeanu, had cancelled campaign stops in Moldavia, northeastern Romania, after being attacked Saturday by alleged supporters of the National Salvation Front in Braila, 300 kilometres northeast of Bucharest.

Campeanu's face was cut in the attack, said Liberal Party officials, adding that he was considering cancelling rallies in the central city of Brasov and in Timisoara, about 300 kilometres west of Bucharest, out of concern for his safety.

Both Campeanu and Ion Ratiu, candidate of the National Peasants' Party, have recently threatened to boycott the elections unless political violence perpetrated by alleged front supporters abated. Ratiu and his wife also have claimed to have been the target of assaults by front members.

Angolan rebels claim field victory

LISBON (AP) — The U.S.-backed rebels in Angola claimed Tuesday they had routed government forces after a three-day battle in the southeastern part of the African country.

Portuguese news media reports, meanwhile, indicated fighting could be closing on Luanda, Angola's capital.

A rebel statement released in Lisbon said 139 government soldiers were killed during the battle near Mavinga, 1,200 kilometres southeast of Luanda.

The Portuguese News Agency (LUSA) reported from Luanda that Gen. Antonio Dos Santos N'Dalu was nominated to command the Bengo-Cuanza Front, a sign that fighting was as close as 60 kilometres northeast of the capital.

There was no confirmation from Angolan officials that fighting was so close to Luanda.

Government troops launched an offensive last December against rebel positions in Cuando Cubango province in southeastern Angola and claimed they captured an airstrip and strategic rebel base near Mavinga.

In turn, the rebel group, known as UNITA, stepped up bombing and sabotage attacks in Luanda and other towns.

UNITA has never acknowledged defeat at Mavinga, and Tuesday's statement, signed by rebel Chief of Staff Afranio Pena, said recent fighting drove government troops from positions 10 kilometres north of the base.

But Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos said last week government columns had advanced south of Mavinga and soon could be within artillery range of the rebel headquarters at Jamba, some 200 kilometres further south.

A Western diplomat following the Angolan conflict from Lisbon said Tuesday the UNITA claims seemed "exaggerated." The diplomat said he had no reports of a major battle in the region.

Trial of rebel army officers begins

MANILA (R) — Twenty-one army rebels cheered defiantly when they went on trial Tuesday in the first court martial of officers linked to December's bloody military attempt to overthrow Philippine President Corazon Aquino.

Defence lawyers immediately blocked the arraignment of the two generals and 19 other officers by challenging the authority of the seven-member military court to try the group on mutiny and murder charges.

When the military prosecutor suggested postponing the trial un-

til legal issues raised by the defence were resolved, several defendants shouted "yes" and broke into applause.

The rebels also cheered when court President General Demetrio Canina opened the session with a slam of the gavel.

One rebel officer raised clenched fists when his name was called out to confirm his presence in the court-room.

Defence lawyer Oliver Lozano walked out in protest against the exclusion of journalists and the defendants' relatives from the heavily guarded courtroom.

Outside the courthouse, Lozano solicited signatures to a leaflet demanding Aquino's resignation "to save the republic."

The 21 defendants were the first group of officers to be tried in connection with the sixth and most serious army coup attempt against Aquino. One hundred and thirteen people died and 600 were wounded in the rebellion.

Hundreds of other soldiers are being investigated but most of the main coup plotters, led by renegade Colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, remain at large.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

60 die in Zaire tin mine collapse

KINSHASA (R) — Sixty people died in a cave-in at a tin mine in the Kivu region of northeastern Zaire, national radio has said. Twenty bodies were recovered but 40 remained buried in a pit 20 metres deep at the mine near the border with Rwanda. The mine, not far from the town of Maniema, was operated by the mining company of Kivu (Sominki), which appealed for help to recover the bodies.

'27 million Soviets died in world war'

MOSCOW (R) — The commander-in-chief of the Warsaw Pact said Monday that the Soviet Union lost at least 27 million people in World War II, seven million more than what for years was the official death toll. General Pyotr Lushev, who is also a first deputy defence minister, said in an interview with the TASS news agency: "In 1946, Stalin said seven million Soviet citizens died ... Khrushchev made public data listing losses at 20 million." He added: "Today, after serious analysis, we know that the Soviet Union lost 27-28 million people during the war." These included more than eight million who had been killed in combat or did not return from captivity, Lushev said. He said former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev's estimate of 20 million dead was based on "questionable estimates." "For years, the true scope of the Soviet Union's losses was concealed or distorted," Lushev said in comments apparently timed to coincide with celebrations marking Wednesday's 45th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Talks on U.S. bases in Greece resume

ATHENS (R) — Greece's new conservative government reopened talks with the United States on the future of American bases, government spokesman Byron Polydoras said. The four U.S. Air Force and Navy bases were threatened with closure by November after the former Socialist government suspended talks last May. The United States said in January two bases — Hellenikon Air Force Base, which shares Athens International Airport, and Nea Makri Naval Communications Base east of Athens — would be closed to cut costs. This leaves two bases on the island of Crete — Souda Bay Naval Station and Iraklion Air Force Base — and some smaller installations across Greece to be negotiated. Polydoras said the next talks would be in Washington on May 21.

U.S. to destroy remaining smallpox virus

GENEVA (R) — The United States said Tuesday it would destroy its remaining stocks of live smallpox virus and urged the Soviet Union to do the same. U.S. Health Secretary Louis Sullivan told an annual meeting of the World Health Organisation (WHO) there was no reason to keep samples of the virus — retained so far for scientific reasons — now the disease had been eradicated. Sullivan said eradication of small pox, an ancient scourge that has killed and scarred millions through the centuries, had been a major triumph for international medical cooperation. The WHO launched a major campaign against smallpox in 1959. It ended in 1980 when the U.N. agency officially declared it dead.

Two Americans arrested in Vietnam

BANGKOK (AP) — A Hong Kong-based American publisher and another U.S. citizen have been arrested by Vietnamese authorities and are being held in Ho Chi Minh City, friends said Tuesday. Official Vietnam media has made no mention of the arrests. Friends of publisher Michael Morrow, who said they have been in touch with Vietnamese authorities, said the two Americans were being held on unspecified charges. Morrow's colleagues spoke on condition of anonymity. Friends of Morrow said he and an unidentified American were on trip to look into possible investments in Vietnam when they were arrested. A third person, French businessman Terry Rodzyk, was also reportedly arrested but subsequently released and allowed to leave the country. The group was seized in the central Vietnam city of Danang and taken to Ho Chi Minh City, according to Morrow's friends. Morrow has an association with Vietnam dating back to the war, when he started a private news service in the country. He was captured by Communist forces during the war but released after a short captivity.

Pope focuses attention on Mexico's 'ring of misery'

CHALCO, Mexico (R) — A papal visit has focused attention on Mexico City's "ring of misery," the sprawling slums that surround the capital and teem with more people than most Central American countries.

This impoverished community, where Pope John Paul II spoke of the suffering face of poverty Monday, is one of hundreds of bleak "barrios" around Mexico City where millions of people battle daily against hunger and illness.

Fourteen miles southeast of the capital, Chalco is typical of the so-called "cinturon de Miseria" or "ring of misery" where landless peasants who stream into urban areas in hope of better lives wind up living in row after row of shacks along unpaved streets.

Officials estimate that one million people live in Chalco and another three million more inhabit nearby Nezahualcoyotl, the capital's largest slum. Together, the two communities alone boast more people than Panama.

Residents who talked with reporters Monday spoke of the despair of trying to raise their children on the equivalent of \$100 a month, less than Mexico's legal minimum wage which is just under \$4 a day.

That despair, as the pontiff noted in his homily here, is "written on the faces of many mothers and fathers, anguished because they lack the means to sustain and educate their children."

Pope John Paul Monday urged Catholics not to be seduced by Protestant fundamentalist sects, who have been making significant inroads in Latin America in recent years.

Speaking in the port city of Veracruz on the Gulf of Mexico, the Pope said Latin American Catholics should beware the "proselytising activity of the sects" and see to it that "the ambiguity and confusion they sow is slowed down."

He said Catholics should do this by turning to the traditional tenets of their faith — popular, devotion to patron saints, intensified religious education and greater participation in the sacraments.

It was the Pope's second reference Monday to Protestant sects. Earlier he told residents of the slum outside Mexico city to beware of "false shepherds" and "sects and groups who seek to lure you from the true flock."

The Roman Catholic Church in Latin America has been increasingly worried by the significant advance of the fundamentalist Evangelical sects, which have been luring Catholics away in growing numbers.

At their general assembly last year, Mexican bishops expressed concern about the growing activity of some three hundred Evangelical church sects who operate in Latin America. Many of them are based in the United States.

6 months on, Berlin Wall at mercy of tourists' hammers

WEST BERLIN (R) — Six months after the Berlin Wall was thrown open, large chunks of the cold war monument are gone but most of it still stands — to the delight of tourists looking for a piece of history.

"This one I will put on a shelf back home for my children to see one day," said Swedish student Jonas Johansson, 19, one of hundreds of tourists hacking away at the barrier every day. "My children will never see the wall."

East Germany began erecting the frontier around West Berlin, which lies inside East German territory, on Aug. 13, 1961.

To keep their citizens from leaving for the West, East German leaders added a death zone of tripwires, automatic guns, anti-tank barriers and 302 watchtowers to the wall, which stood 160 kilometres long and four metres high.

Even though some of the devices were removed in recent years, the wall still stood as a symbol of unbending Stalinism.

But on Nov. 9 last year it was opened by the East's then-Communist rulers in an effort to appease a pro-democracy revolt, which eventually ousted the Communist Party from power.

East German border guards, who once fired Kalashnikov sub-machine guns at their own people seeking to flee over the barrier, now routinely wave them through at about 30 crossings.

Border guard Joerg Manke, 21, chatting with a reporter through a hole in the battered concrete, said he was working an early shift on Nov. 10 last year.

Told by his superiors that the wall was open, he said he could not believe it. Then he saw East German trabant cars spatter through the Checkpoint Charlie border crossing.

A long-held dream for many became reality and hundreds of people danced on the wall, laughing, singing and crying.

"I happened to have a hangover that morning, but I soon cured it with sparkling wine tossed over

the wall by people on the Western side," said Manke, who has swapped the Kalashnikov for a small pistol worn for personal protection.

Business is brisk at a nearby museum where the history of the wall, including dramatic escapes, is on permanent display.

"We have more visitors now than before the wall was opened," museum spokeswoman Karin Nuthmann said. "We get the East Germans who never had a chance to come here before. Many tourists come because the wall may not be around much longer."

East Germany's new Christian Democratic prime minister, Lothar de Maiziere, has said it will be removed. But it is a costly affair and the fledgling democracy has more pressing matters, such as working out economic details of unification with West Germany.

Attempts had been under way to preserve a section of the wall

behind the former Nazi Luftwaffe Air Force headquarters, which stands intact on East German ground, but souvenir hunters nibbled at it so quickly that it disappeared.

All that is left is a path of sand and rocks.

"My job has become much more pleasant now," said border guard Tilo Knause, 20, resting in a green trabant patrol car. "You can relax, talk to people," he said, squinting at the sun.

Nearby, West Berliner Tino Daraske, 53, was hammering away at the graffiti-covered concrete from a ladder, each hit echoing between the dilapidated houses on both sides of the border.

"I have been doing this since the wall was opened," said Daraske, an unemployed welder, who sells Communist memorabilia and pieces of the wall to tourists.

A row of wooden crosses stand next to the old Reichstag parliament building in West Berlin,

erected in memory of the 80 or so people who died trying to flee from the East. But the wall itself, once a backdrop, is no longer there.

In East Berlin, a long stretch along Potsdamer Platz has been replaced by a simple fence. In the middle of the square, near a grass mound covering remnants of Hitler's bunker, workers dig deep in search of stray World War II bombs.

A rock concert is planned for July on the spot, a hub of city life in the 1920s and 1930s but turned by the wall into a no-man's-land. To the left and right of the Brandenburg Gate — a symbol of German unity before the war and of disunity after that until the wall was breached — officials have pulled out graffiti-covered slabs and sold them off to the West.

The gate itself is wrapped in scaffolding, its crowning chariot removed for repairs after being damaged by revellers on New Year's Eve.

Anti-Li Peng poster appears in Peking

PEKING (R) — Chinese police Tuesday hurriedly covered up a poster on a Peking streetcorner attacking hardline Premier Li Peng and President Yang Shangkun in a brief show of political discontent, witnesses said.

They said the crudely written "big character" poster was tacked up on a public bulletin board near the Peking Normal University until police moved in and placed a seal over it.

The unsigned poster, dated May 7, praised Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin, the People's Liberation Army and the Chinese people but it added: "Down with Li Peng, Yang Shangkun and the government."

A witness told Reuters: "There was a big crowd of people watching as about 10 policemen came by and covered up the poster with a red seal."

Western diplomats said the incident appeared to be one of several small, isolated acts of defiance against hardline policies that have prevailed since a bloody army crackdown on a campaign for democracy last June.

On April 15, the anniversary of the death of reform Communist leader Hu Yaobang, police arrested a lone man who tried to lay a wreath with an inscription dedicated to the "heroes who died for democracy and freedom."

It was Hu's death that sparked mass protests in Peking and other major cities around the country.

The first issue of an underground newspaper called Steel Currents was distributed last month at Peking University, a hotbed of unrest a year ago.

The premier and president

have been closely linked with tough policies imposed since reformist Zhao Ziyang was ousted as Communist Party chief last June.

Posters in big Chinese characters were a common tool of political protest in the past, used most effectively in the Democracy Wall campaign, a brief flowering of democratic ideals in 1978 and 1979.

During last year's political unrest, posters calling for political reform and attacking government and Communist Party leaders covered walls and bulletin boards of the city's major universities.

Peking has tightened security before key anniversary dates, stepping up police patrols and plainclothes surveillance to prevent any repetition of large scale protests.

France, N. Zealand end dispute over Rainbow Warrior affair

NEW YORK (R) — Five years after two French spies blew up the "Rainbow Warrior" in a New Zealand harbour, a tribunal ruled that France had wronged New Zealand but it was time to stop the feuding.

Both governments declared the decision satisfactory, with New Zealand officials taking comfort in the public rebuke to France and France pleased that its two agents did not have to return to captivity.

The tribunal, composed of a jurist from each country and a judge from Uruguay, Monday condemned France for releasing the two before they had completed their sentences on the French atoll of Hao in the South Pacific.

But the panel rejected New Zealand's request that agents Major Alain Mafart and Captain Dominique Prieur, whose actions resulted in the death of a Dutch photographer, should serve their full terms and said it was time to end the affair.

To this end the tribunal recommended that both countries set up a fund to promote "close and friendly relations" between the citizens of each nation and that France make an initial \$2 million contribution to it.

The Rainbow Warrior ship, belonging to the Greenpeace environmental group, was blown up in July 1985 in Auckland Harbour as it was about to sail to the French island of Mururoa to protest against nuclear testing there.

Both nations agreed to arbitration after New Zealand accused France of renegeing on a 1986 United Nations-brokered settlement that resulted in France paying New Zealand \$7 million and New Zealand commuting the agents' 10-year jail terms to three years on the Polynesian island of Hao.

But France flew Mafart back in December 1987 for medical treatment and Prieur followed in May 1988 because she was pregnant and her father was dying.

The panel ruled that France was not in violation for removing Mafart to Paris but should have returned him to Hao, however, Prieur should not have been allowed to leave, it said.

Facts show Reagan lied — prosecutors

WASHINGTON (AP) — A prosecutor's remark at John Poindexter's trial that then-President Reagan lied about trading arms for U.S. hostages was fully supported by the facts, Iran-contra prosecutors said Monday.

Dan K. Webb's remark in closing arguments was defended in court papers filed by prosecutors in response to defence motions to set aside the former national security adviser's five felony convictions.

Poindexter's lawyers argued that Webb's remark to jurors that Reagan lied to the American

public by denying he ever traded arms for U.S. hostages was an improper expression of personal opinion.

But independent counsel Lawrence E. Walsh replied that "the prosecutor's remarks were fully supported by the evidence and were relevant to the charges in this case."

"The evidence introduced at trial clearly established that a November 1985 shipment of Hawk missiles to Iran was intended as part of an exchange of arms for hostages," Walsh said. "The evidence further estab-

lishes that on Nov. 13, 1986, President Reagan addressed the nation and denied to the American public the allegation that his administration had been involved in an arms-for-hostages deal," the prosecution filing said.

During his summation, Webb told jurors he would not criticise Reagan's decision to trade arms for hostages.

"You make judgements as president and you carry them out, and maybe you're right and maybe you're wrong," Webb said. "But you don't lie to the American public."

Jackal: Original plan was to kidnap, try and then execute de Gaulle

MADRID (AP) — The man who nearly succeeded in assassinating French President Charles de Gaulle in 1962 says the original plan by a group of disgruntled French army officers was to kidnap, try and then execute him," Watin told Anton Fock, the author of the article.

He said the plan had been to kidnap de Gaulle at sunset, but that the officers who did all the figuring had used an almanac from the previous year and got the time wrong, and the presidential cortege arrived ahead of schedule.

"Suddenly I realised that the whole plan should be scrapped immediately," Watin said. "But by then it was too late."

Watin said he and the two other hired guns shot out the rear window and the two rear tyres of de Gaulle's car.

"For a moment I looked directly at his (de Gaulle's) eyes. Our car was right alongside his, but we had calculated shooting at a car that was practically immobile," Watin said. "Later I learned I had missed him by just

two centimetres."

In April 1961 four French generals based in Algiers and belonging to the Secret Army Organisation (OAS) staged an abortive coup attempt against de Gaulle's government.

Shortly after the Petit Clamart attack, de Gaulle, then 72, announced Algeria deserved to become independent, and negotiations were begun with the Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN).

On July 3, 1962, de Gaulle proclaimed Algeria independent. Watin said once the OAS realised it would be impossible to hit de Gaulle, they sent him to Switzerland, where he was arrested six months later.

He said the French government immediately sent a special police unit to arrest him but that Swiss authorities decided he wasn't a political detainee so could not be turned over.

"Two years later the Swiss expelled me, so I went first to Seville and then to South America. I am now a Paraguayan citizen."



Stallone wants to go green

MILAN (R) — American film actor Sylvester Stallone, star of the violent box-office hits Rambo and Rocky, wants to shake off his tough hero image and turn green. "I want Rambo to disappear unless I'm allowed to turn him into the defender of the ecological battle to save the environment. My new Rambo will be closer to greenpeace than to the CIA," he said at a show in Milan to be broadcast on Italian television Tuesday.

Liz Taylor's health improving each day

LOS ANGELES (R) — Film star Elizabeth Taylor, who almost died in her battle with pneumonia, is improving each day, but no date has been set for her to leave the hospital, her spokeswoman said Monday. Taylor, 58, entered St. John's Hospital over three weeks ago and doctors said for two days her life was in jeopardy. "Elizabeth is doing much better now," her spokeswoman, Chen Sam, said. She said the actress has received flowers and piles of mail from well-wishers. Taylor, who has been married seven times — twice to Richard Burton — issued a statement earlier saying she wanted to deny what she called a plethora of rumours she had an AIDS-related condition.

'Oil can bandits' halt traffic, then rob motorists

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — At least 10 motorists were robbed over the weekend after a gang dumped oil on a San Francisco street, then accosted the occupants of cars that spun out of control, police said. "With the oil on the streets, the tyres can't get a grip, and the victims can't get away," a police lieutenant told the San Francisco Examiner. "They're just helpless." Police called the gang, which numbered five or more men armed with clubs, the "oil can bandits."

U.S. company plans gaining ventures in Soviet Union

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (AP) — A Nevada company has signed an agreement with the Soviet government to operate four small casinos in Russia, a company official said. Officials hope to open the first casino along the Black Sea in less than two months, according to Simon Furman, general manager for Uniquad. Uniquad will spend about \$1 million to open the four casinos in existing hotels, he said. "The casinos will carry the Las Vegas name because it is known worldwide," Furman said. Glasnost and recent changes in the Eastern Bloc have made it possible to open the casinos in the Soviet Union, Furman said. The first casino will have six or eight table games and 35 to 50 slot machines. It is expected to open this summer in the Dagomys resort town on the Black Sea, Furman said. Two other casinos are planned at resorts near Moscow and another will be opened on the Black Sea. Furman said Uniquad will split the profits from the casinos on an even basis with the Soviet government.

Tyson becomes a father

NEW YORK (AP) — Boxer Mike Tyson became a father last week when a baby boy was born to his 24-year-old girlfriend at a hospital in the upper New York state, the New York Post says. "I'm very happy to be having a family," Tyson told the Post. The newspaper report said the child was born to Natalie Fears of Los Angeles. The name of the hospital was not given. The report also says Tyson has no plans to marry Miss Fears but will buy a house in Los Angeles and support the child. Tyson brought Miss Fears from Los Angeles to the Canille several months ago, and she has been staying with the woman who helped raise Tyson, Camille Ewald. Tyson has not yet seen his son because he is training for a June 16 fight with Henry Tillman in Las Vegas, the newspaper said, quoting unidentified sources. The newspaper says a Los Angeles dancer, Treata Archie, 22, said in February that Tyson is the father of her infant son. Tyson has not acknowledged paternity in that case, the Post said. Both Tyson and Miss Fears are divorced.